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SHAZAM

WITH ONE MAGIC WORD...

SHAZAM!

THE ORIGINAL CAPTAIN MARVEL

NO. 14
OCT.
30688

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

A NEW BOOK-LENGTH SHAZAM FAMILY THRILLER!

"CURSE OF THE BOOKS"

"THE MAN WHO LIVED HISTORY"

The TALKING TIGER IN "MR. TAWNY'S FIGHT FOR FAME"

ALSO "The WORD WRECKER" AND "The MAGIC MIX-UP"

SHAZAM!

NO. 14 SEPT. - OCT.

COVER: BOB OKSNER

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WHEN BILLY AND MARY BATSON SAY THE NAME OF THE ANCIENT WIZARD, SHAZAM, AND WHEN FREDDY FREEMAN SPEAKS THE NAME OF HIS HERO, CAPTAIN MARVEL, THEY ARE CHANGED BY MAGIC LIGHTNING INTO THE MIGHTY MARVEL FAMILY... CAPTAIN MARVEL, MARY MARVEL AND CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.! WHEN EVIL IS DEFEATED, THE SAME WORDS CHANGE THEM BACK!

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IT'S USUALLY MY PRIVILEGE IN SHAZAM TO INTRODUCE ONE OF CAPTAIN MARVEL'S LATEST ADVENTURES! BUT THIS TIME, I HAVE... UH, THAT IS, WE HAVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR YOU!
BILLY'S RIGHT! THE WHOLE MARVEL FAMILY WAS INVOLVED IN THIS NEWEST ADVENTURE... AND SO WERE THE SIVANA FAMILY, IBAC AND MR. MIND!
UNCLE MARVEL PLAYED A PART, TOO... AS DID A CERTAIN BOOK HE WAS READING!

The Marvel Family

STORY BY: Denny O'Neil
ART BY: Schaffenberger
EDITED BY: Julius Schwartz

HOLY MOLEY!
IT'S AN IMAGINARY BEAST WITH DOCTOR SIVANA'S FACE--
--AND WE CAN'T STOP IT!
FEATURING THE LONG-AWAITED, SENSATIONAL REAPPEARANCE OF YOURS TRULY... UNCLE MARVEL!

"The EVIL RETURN of the MONSTER SOCIETY"

S-170A

CHAPTER I "The Meeting of the MONSTERS!"

MEET UNCLE DUDLEY, LOST TO THE WORLD ON THIS FINE SPRING MORNING...
MMMMM... REMARKABLE, THESE OLD TALES!
INDEEDY... ALL MADE UP, OF COURSE!
HELP! THAT THIEF STOLE MY PURSE!
A PURSE-SNATCHER, PLYING HIS PERNICIOUS TRADE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT!
SHAZAM!
MYTHOLOGY
BUT THERE IS NO LIGHTNING BOLT TO ANSWER THE MAGIC WORD! INSTEAD...
I'LL SWITCH TO MY FIGHTING TOGS...
MMMM... BIT OF TROUBLE WITH THE ZIPPER! DRATTED THINGS...
I DESIGNED THIS OUTFIT SO I COULD UNZIP IT FAST! I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD GET STUCK!
ALMOST GOT THE WRETCH LOOSE!
HEY, BUB! WATCH WHERE YER ROLLING!
2

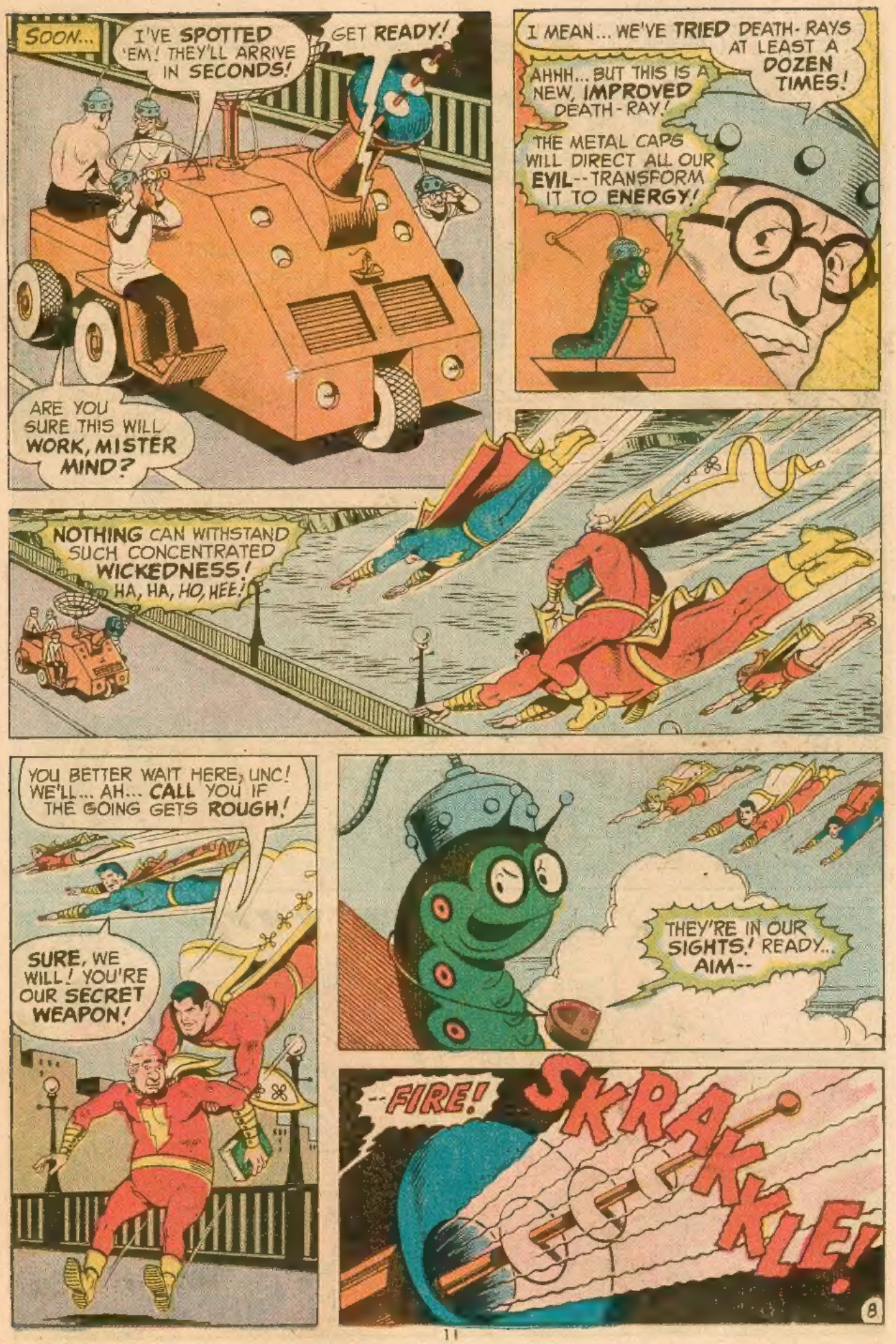
UNNGH!
NOW I'M READY TO FIX HIS WAGON!
UM... WHERE'D HE GO?
GOOD WORK, UNCLE MARVEL--
-- YOU NAILED HIM FOR SURE!
I DID?! I MEAN...
...YES, INDEEDY, I SURE DID!
COINCIDENTALLY, AT THAT MOMENT...
AH, MY FAVORITE NIECE AND NEPHEWS-- MARY MARVEL, CAPTAIN MARVEL AND CAPTAIN MARVEL JUNIOR!
NEED ANY HELP, UNCLE?
NOT A BIT! HE DID FINE!
YES, WE SAW! UNC, HERE, CERTAINLY SENT THAT CROOK ON A... TRIP!
HEY, MARVEL FAMILY! HOW ABOUT LETTING A HARD-WORKING NEWSMAN GET A PICTURE?
CHEESE!
INDEEDY, OFFICER! I CONSIDER MYSELF POISON TO THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT!
HE'S NO MORE A CRIME-FIGHTER THAN I AM A ROCK STAR!
TRUE! BUT HE'S SUCH A CHARMING, LOVABLE OLD FRAUD!
SO LONG AS HE ENJOYS PRETENDING HE'S ONE OF US -- WHAT'S THE HARM IN LETTING HIM THINK WE BELIEVE HIM?

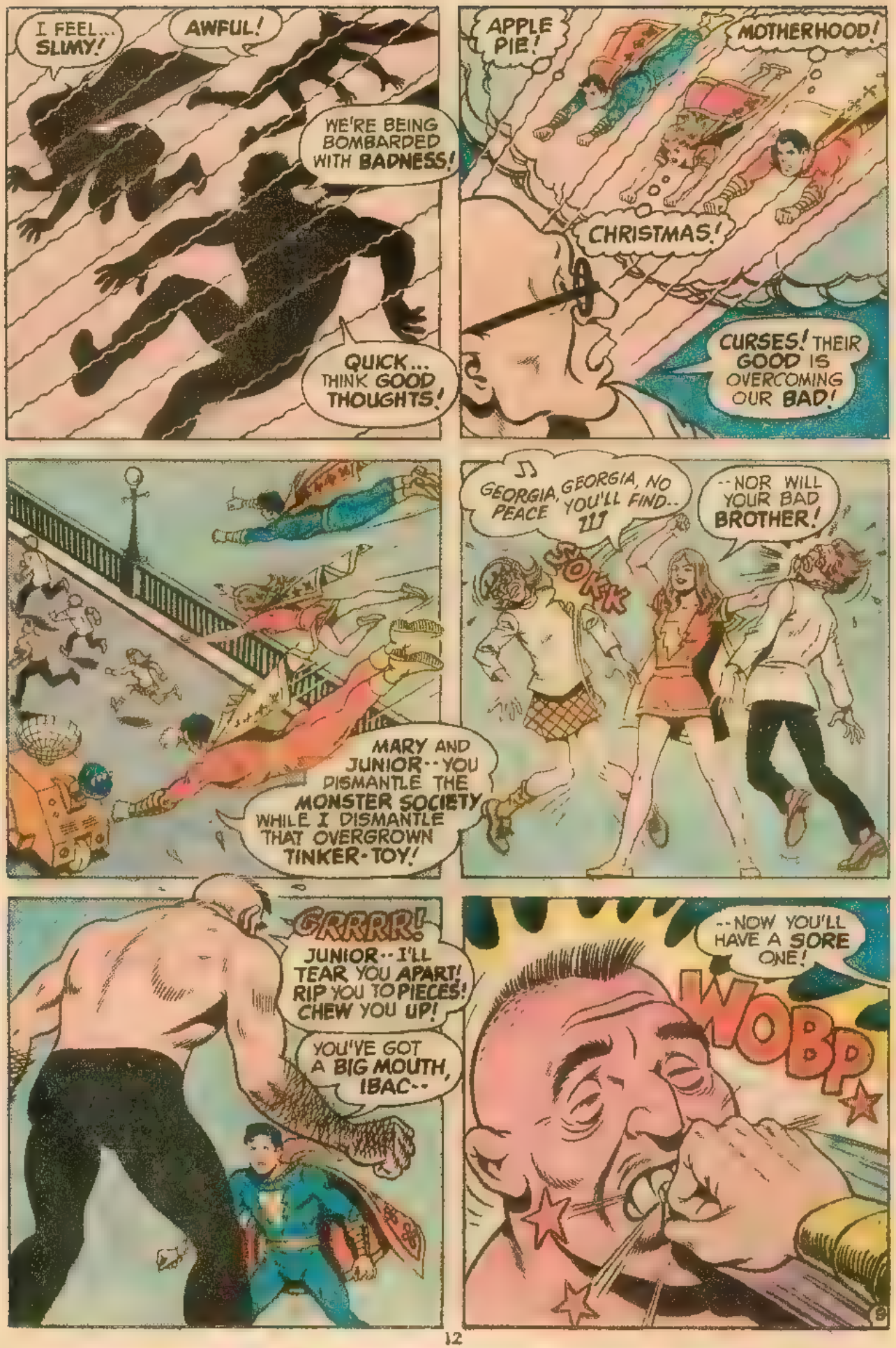
NOT EVERYONE IS AS CHEERFUL AS CAP! FOR IN DR. SIVANA'S LABORATORY--
--AND THE LITTLE BLUE CHEESE--
--AND THE LITTLE RED CHEESE!
BAH! THE MARVELS CAUGHT ANOTHER OF OUR BROTHERS! A CURSE ON THE BIG RED CHEESE--
CITY NEWS
BUT DON'T SWEAT IT, POP! ALL THE "CHEESES" TOGETHER WOULDN'T MAKE ONE DECENT PIZZA TOPPING!
REMEMBER-- YOU'RE THE WORLD'S WICKEDEST SCIENTIST AND JUNIOR, THERE, IS THE WORLD'S ROTTENEST BOY--
--AND I, GEORGIA SIVANA, AM THE WORLD'S SNEAKIEST GIRL! WHY, THE MARVELS AREN'T EVEN IN OUR LEAGUE--
YICK! A WORM IN MY APPLE!
I'LL SQUOOSH IT!
NO, NO, NO! IT ISN'T AN ORDINARY WORM!
--IT'S MY OLD PARTNER IN VILENESS... MISTER MIND!
AHH-- YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME!
FORGET THE WORM-GENIUS FROM A DISTANT PLANET WHO FORMED THE MONSTER SOCIETY OF EVIL? NEVER!!
4

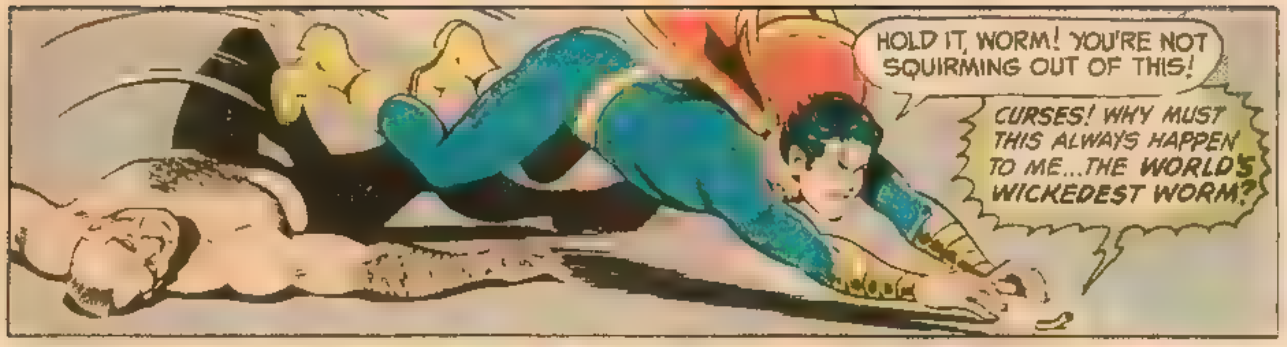
FUNNY YOU SHOULD MENTION THE MONSTER SOCIETY! THAT'S WHY I'VE COME TO SEE YOU!
FACE IT, SIVANA! THE MARVELS ALWAYS DEFEAT US WHEN WE BATTLE THEM SINGLY!
AND THEY EVEN BEAT US WHEN WE FOUGHT THEM AS THE SOCIETY!
YES! BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE THE CORRECT TOOLS IN THOSE DAYS!
YOU'LL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I'VE INVENTED A DEVICE WHICH WILL REDUCE THE MARVELS TO SMOKING RUINS!
I PROPOSE WE RE-ORGANIZE THE MONSTER SOCIETY OF EVIL! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HEY! WHAT ABOUT ME?!
CRAA
SH!
IBAC!
YEAH, ME--THE GUY WHO COMBINES THE WORST QUALITIES OF IVAN THE TERRIBLE, BORGIA, ATTILA THE HUN AND CALIGULA!
AND SINCE I'M A PRIME MARVEL-HATER, TOO...AND A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE OLD MONSTER SOCIETY...
SAY NO MORE! WELCOME TO THE CLUB!
YOU'RE KINDA CUTE, FOR A SCRAWNY!
MMMM... YOU, TOO! I DIG BRUTES!
ENOUGH CHIT-CHAT! YOU HAVE ALL THE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY, DOCTOR SIVANA --SO LET'S GET STARTED!
HEE, HA, HO!
5

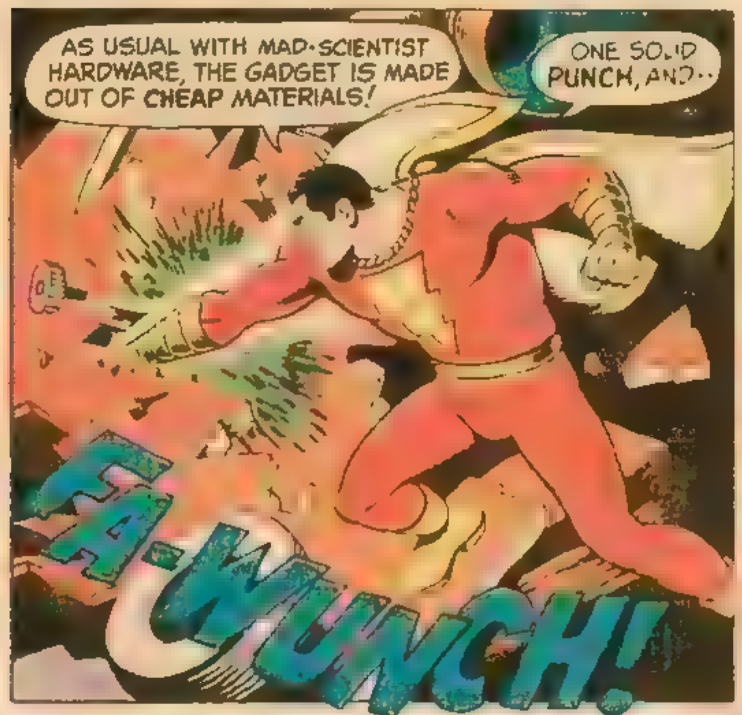
THE FOLLOWING DAY, AT STATION WHIZ...
ON THE AIR
THAT'S THE NEWS FOR NOW, FOLKS!
THIS IS BILLY BATSON BIDDING YOU BYE-BYE!
GOOD BROADCAST, BILLY!
THANKS, SIS!
JOIN US FOR A SODA, FREDDY?
THANKS, BUT NO, THANKS, BILLY! I'D BETTER BE GETTING BACK TO MY NEWSSTAND!
SUDDENLY, THE WALL SPEAKER CRACKLES WITH A RASPY, FAMILIAR VOICE--
ATTENTION, CHEESY MARVELS!
IT'S DOCTOR SIVANA!
SHHHH... LET'S LISTEN!
THE MONSTER SOCIETY OF EVIL CHALLENGES ALL CHEESY MARVELS TO A DEATH-DUEL ON THE CITY BRIDGE IN ONE HOUR!
THE MONSTER SOCIETY? CAPTAIN MARVEL COOKED THEIR GOOSE YEARS AGO!
HE MIGHT BE BLUFFING!
WE CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE! WE'D BETTER SUMMON THE MARVEL FAMILY!
6

BILLY, MARY AND UNCLE DUDLEY SPEAK THE MAGIC WORD... AND FREDDY SHOUTS THE NAME OF HIS HERO...
SHAZAM!
CAPTAIN MARVEL!
SHAZAM!
SHAZAM!
... AND IN INSTANT ANSWER THERE IS A TRIPLE FLASH OF MYSTIC LIGHTNING--
BOOOOM
... CALLING FORTH THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST FAMILY!
NEXT STOP --THE CITY BRIDGE!
HEY... WAIT FOR ME!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE MORE INTERESTED IN READING YOUR MYTHOLOGY BOOK THAN REAL LIFE, UNC!
AWWW... FISH, NEPHEW! YOU KNOW ME-- I'M ALWAYS RIPE FOR ACTION!
HOPE YOU DON'T MIND FLYING ME! MY... ER... SHAZAMBAGO IS ACTING UP!
THAT'S ALWAYS A HANDY EXCUSE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO DO MARVEL-FEATS!
7

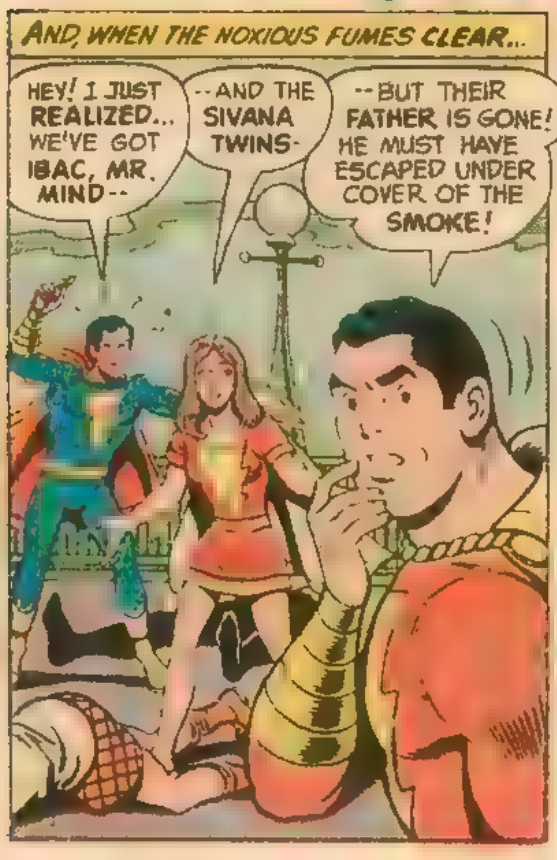

SOON...
I'VE SPOTTED 'EM! THEY'LL ARRIVE IN SECONDS!
GET READY!
ARE YOU SURE THIS WILL WORK, MISTER MIND?
I MEAN... WE'VE TRIED DEATH-RAYS AT LEAST A DOZEN TIMES!
AHHH... BUT THIS IS A NEW, IMPROVED DEATH-RAY!
THE METAL CAPS WILL DIRECT ALL OUR EVIL--TRANSFORM IT TO ENERGY!
NOTHING CAN WITHSTAND SUCH CONCENTRATED WICKEDNESS! HA, HA, HO, HEE!
YOU BETTER WAIT HERE, UNC! WE'LL... AH... CALL YOU IF THE GOING GETS ROUGH!
SURE, WE WILL! YOU'RE OUR SECRET WEAPON!
THEY'RE IN OUR SIGHTS! READY... AIM--
--FIRE!
SKRAKKLE!
8

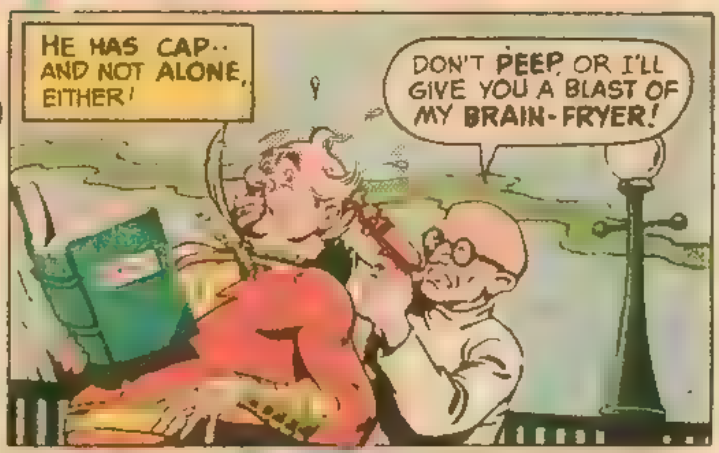

I FEEL... SLIMY!
AWFUL!
WE'RE BEING BOMBARDED WITH BADNESS!
QUICK... THINK GOOD THOUGHTS!
APPLE PIE!
MOTHERHOOD!
CHRISTMAS!
CURSES! THEIR GOOD IS OVERCOMING OUR BAD!
♫ GEORGIA, GEORGIA, NO PEACE YOU'LL FIND.. !!!
--NOR WILL YOUR BAD BROTHER!
SOKK
MARY AND JUNIOR--YOU DISMANTLE THE MONSTER SOCIETY WHILE I DISMANTLE THAT OVERGROWN TINKER-TOY!
GRRRR!
JUNIOR--I'LL TEAR YOU APART! RIP YOU TO PIECES! CHEW YOU UP!
YOU'VE GOT A BIG MOUTH, IBAC--
--NOW YOU'LL HAVE A SORE ONE!
WOBP

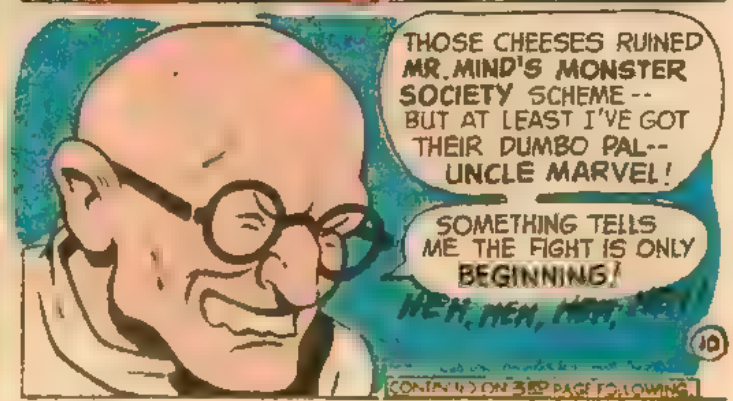

HOLD IT, WORM! YOU'RE NOT SQUIRMING OUT OF THIS!
CURSES! WHY MUST THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME...THE WORLD'S WICKEDEST WORM?


AS USUAL WITH MAD-SCIENTIST HARDWARE, THE GADGET IS MADE OUT OF CHEAP MATERIALS!
ONE SOLID PUNCH, AND--
KA-WUNCH!

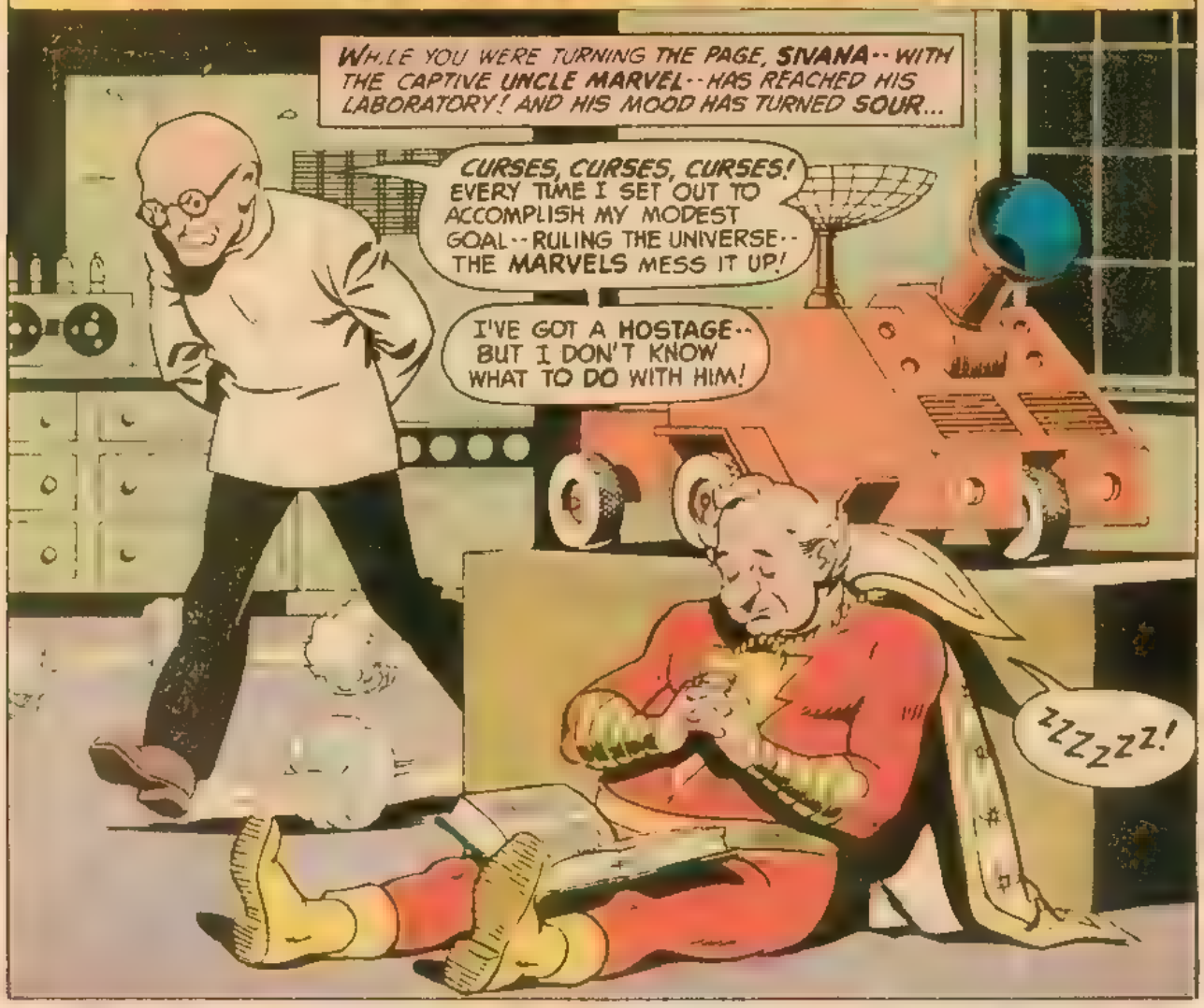
SHEEW!
I HADN'T COUNTED ON THIS--SMELLS TERRIBLE!

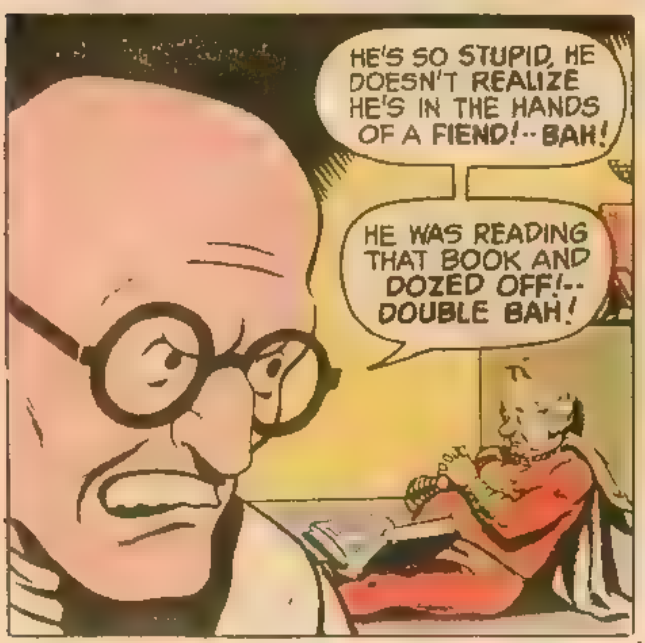

AND, WHEN THE NOXIOUS FUMES CLEAR...
HEY! I JUST REALIZED... WE'VE GOT IBAC, MR. MIND--
--AND THE SIVANA TWINS-
--BUT THEIR FATHER IS GONE! HE MUST HAVE ESCAPED UNDER COVER OF THE SMOKE!

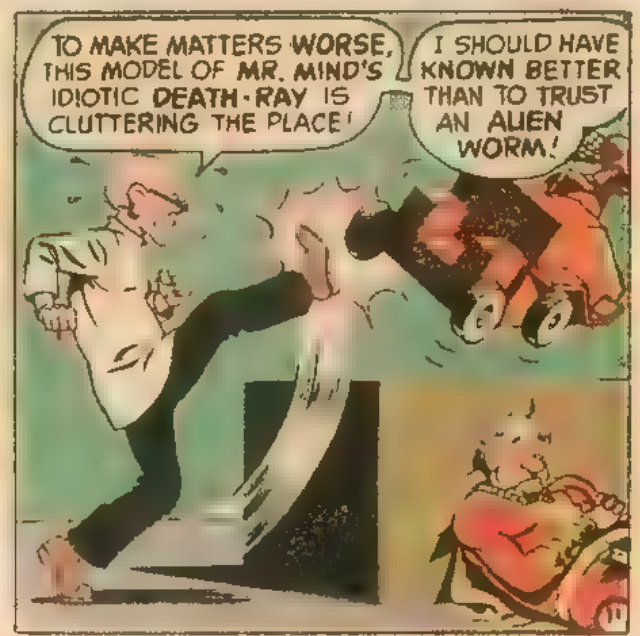

HE HAS CAP-- AND NOT ALONE, EITHER!
DON'T PEEP, OR I'LL GIVE YOU A BLAST OF MY BRAIN-FRYER!


THOSE CHEESES RUINED MR. MIND'S MONSTER SOCIETY SCHEME-- BUT AT LEAST I'VE GOT THEIR DUMBO PAL-- UNCLE MARVEL!
SOMETHING TELLS ME THE FIGHT IS ONLY BEGINNING!
HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH!
10
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

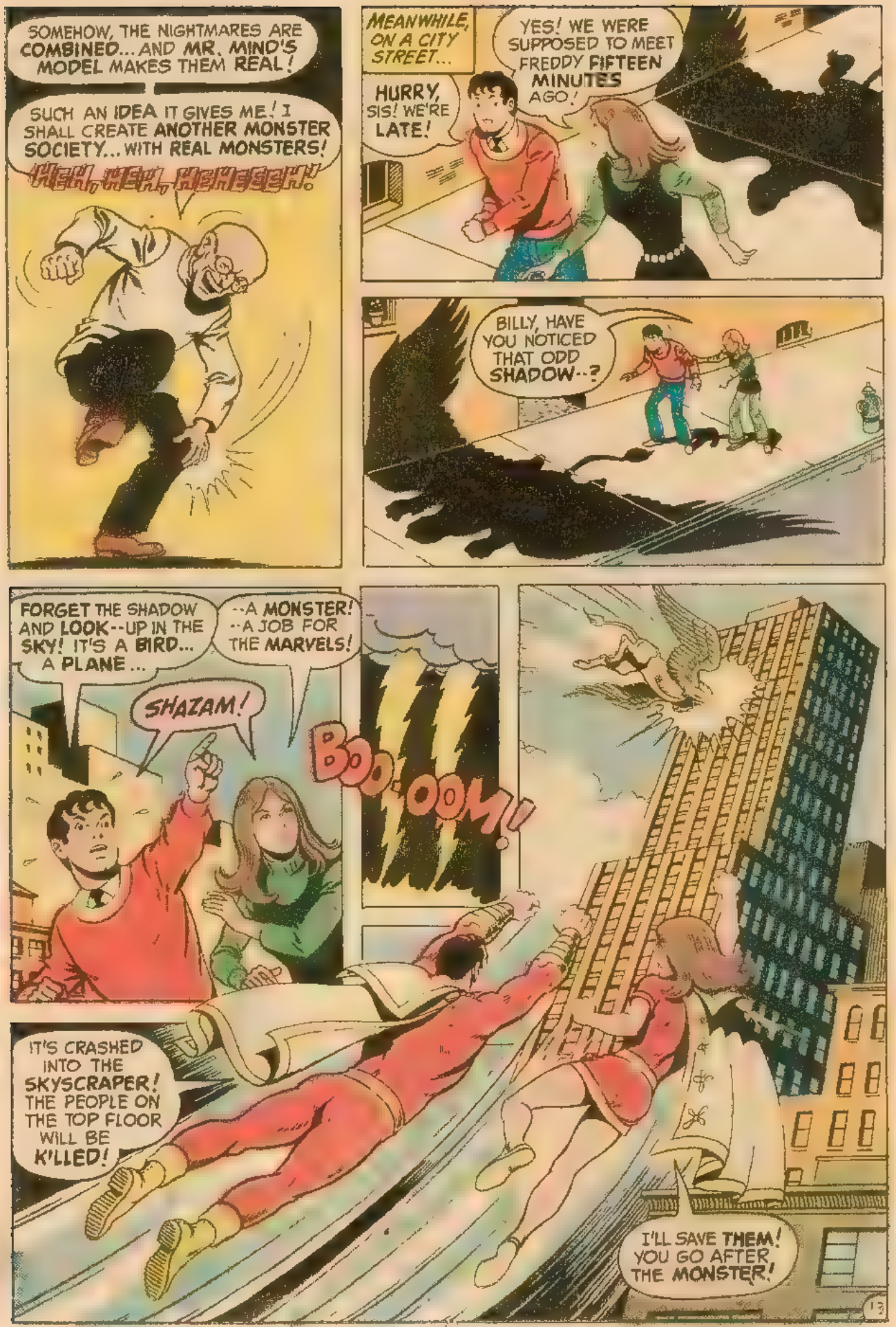
CHAPTER II "The MONSTERS are COMING! The MONSTERS are COMING!"

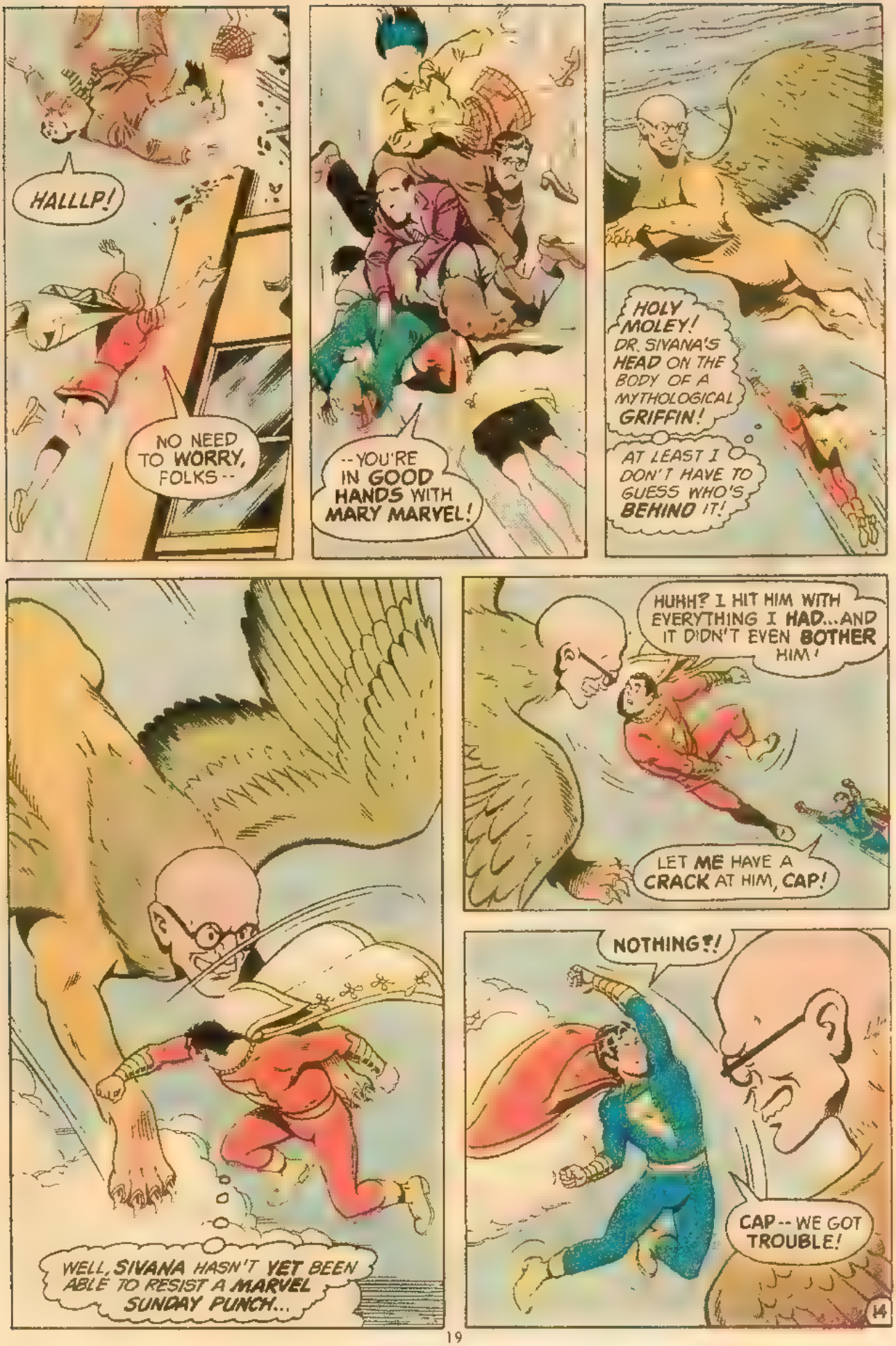

WHILE YOU WERE TURNING THE PAGE, SIVANA -- WITH THE CAPTIVE UNCLE MARVEL -- HAS REACHED HIS LABORATORY! AND HIS MOOD HAS TURNED SOUR...
CURSES, CURSES, CURSES! EVERY TIME I SET OUT TO ACCOMPLISH MY MODEST GOAL -- RULING THE UNIVERSE -- THE MARVELS MESS IT UP!
I'VE GOT A HOSTAGE -- BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIM!
ZZZZZZZ!




TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, THIS MODEL OF MR. MIND'S IDIOTIC DEATH-RAY IS CLUTTERING THE PLACE!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRUST AN ALIEN WORM!

AS IF IN RESPONSE TO THE WICKED SCIENTIST'S KICK--
EH--? SOMETHING'S POPPED FROM THE RAY'S BARREL! IT LOOKS LIKE--
PLOP!
...IT IS! A GRIFFIN... WITH MY HEAD!
AND IT'S GROWING LARGER--
--GIGANTIC!
RIDICULOUS! GRIFFINS DON'T REALLY EXIST!
KA-R
ASH!
I'VE GOT TO LEARN WHAT CAUSED THE CREATURE! LET'S SEE. THE MODEL'S CAP IS ON UNCLE MARVEL'S HEAD
...HE'S NAPPING... AND HE'S BEEN READING THAT BOOK--
AHA! AND DOUBLE AHA! THIS PICTURE OF THE IMAGINARY BEAST EXPLAINS ALL--TO MY SPLENDID BRAIN, ANYWAY!
UNCLE MARVEL IS HAVING A NIGHTMARE ABOUT THE MYTHS... AND ABOUT ME!
GRIFFIN
12


SOMEHOW, THE NIGHTMARES ARE COMBINED... AND MR. MIND'S MODEL MAKES THEM REAL!
SUCH AN IDEA IT GIVES ME! I SHALL CREATE ANOTHER MONSTER SOCIETY... WITH REAL MONSTERS!
HEH, HEH, HEHEEEH!
MEANWHILE, ON A CITY STREET...
HURRY, SIS! WE'RE LATE!
YES! WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET FREDDY FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO!
BILLY, HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT ODD SHADOW--?
FORGET THE SHADOW AND LOOK--UP IN THE SKY! IT'S A BIRD... A PLANE...
--A MONSTER! --A JOB FOR THE MARVELS!
SHAZAM!
BOO-OOM!
IT'S CRASHED INTO THE SKYSCRAPER! THE PEOPLE ON THE TOP FLOOR WILL BE K'LLED!
I'LL SAVE THEM! YOU GO AFTER THE MONSTER!


HALLLP!
NO NEED TO WORRY, FOLKS--
--YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH MARY MARVEL!
HOLY MOLEY! DR. SIVANA'S HEAD ON THE BODY OF A MYTHOLOGICAL GRIFFIN!
AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO GUESS WHO'S BEHIND IT!
HUHH? I HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING I HAD...AND IT DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER HIM!
LET ME HAVE A CRACK AT HIM, CAP!
WELL, SIVANA HASN'T YET BEEN ABLE TO RESIST A MARVEL SUNDAY PUNCH...
NOTHING?!
CAP--WE GOT TROUBLE!
14

TROUBLE? AN UNDERSTATEMENT! FOR AT THAT MOMENT...
IF YOU ENJOYED THE PISTACHIO ICE CREAM WITH VINEGAR SAUCE, UNCLE--
--YOU'LL JUST LOVE THIS PICKLE SUNDAE!
YOU'VE FINISHED YOUR SNACK? THEN IT'S TIME FOR SLEEPY-EYE!
BOP
HEH, HEH... ANYBODY WHO EATS A REVOLTING MEAL LIKE THAT IS BOUND TO HAVE HIDEOUS DREAMS!
I'LL KICK THE MODEL AGAIN, AND--
--BINGO! HERE COME MORE MONSTERS WITH MY HANDSOME HEAD!
OH, JOY! THEY'LL DEVASTATE THE WHOLE WORLD--
--AND WHEN IT'S GONE, I'LL REBUILD--ACCORDING TO MY PLANS! HEHEHEEEEEH!
SOON...
CAP--A PLAGUE OF THOSE AWFULS!
AT 'EM, KIDS-- EVEN THOUGH THE ODDS ARE AGAINST US!
15

BOY! FOR ALL THE GOOD I'M DOING I MIGHT AS WELL BE FREDDY FREEMAN PEDDLING MY PAPERS!
NONE OF US ARE COVERING OURSELVES WITH GLORY!
THEN WHY WASTE TIME GETTING NOWHERE? BRAWN'S GETTING US ZERO--
SO LET'S GIVE OUR BRAINS A WORKOUT AND FIND OUT WHERE THEY COME FROM!
THAT SHOULDN'T BE HARD MARY! THEY'RE HEADING INTO THAT MOUNTAIN VALLEY!
I'VE GOT A SNEAKY SUSPICION WE'RE ABOUT TO RUN INTO--
SIVANA!
STAY AWAY, CHEESES, OR I'LL GIVE THE DOLT A DOUBLE DOSE OF SKULL-SCRAMBLER!
OH, GOODY! LOOK.. ANOTHER NASTY, VICIOUS ROC!
A ROC-- A HUGE MYTHOLOGICAL BIRD!
HOLY MOLEY! ALL OF A SUDDEN, THINGS ARE MAKING SENSE!
THEY ARE?
JUST AS THE BIG RAY-PROJECTOR TRANSFORMED EVIL THOUGHTS INTO ENERGY, SO THE SMALL ONE IS CHANGING UNC'S DREAMS TO REALITY!
WE CAN'T HURT THEM BECAUSE THEY AREN'T REAL... THEY'LL NEVER BEEN REAL AND WE ARE!

THEN HOW COME THEY CAN KNOCK OVER BUILDINGS? THEY ARE REAL!
BECAUSE THEY'RE PART SIVANA ...AND HE'S AS REAL AS WE ARE!
LISTEN CLOSE... I HAVE A PLAN!
AFTER A FEW HASTY MUMBLES, JUNIOR STREAKS SKYWARD...
...AND FLIES TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY!
NOW TO BORROW JUST THE RIGHT BOOK--
HERE IT IS. A BOOK ABOUT US... AND IT'S JUST THE SIZE AND COLOR OF UNCLE'S MYTHOLOGY BOOK!
PLENTY OF PICTURES IN IT, TOO! THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK!
WONDER HOW CAP AND MARY ARE DOING?
AT THAT MOMENT, CAP AND MARY ARE DOING STRANGELY--
WE HUMBLY ADMIT DEFEAT, DOCTOR SIVANA, SIR!
YOUR SLIGHTEST WISH IS OUR COMMAND!
HEH, HEHHHHH! HOW I'VE LONGED FOR THIS TRIUMPH!
17

NOW HEAR THIS, MARVELS!
SAY THE WORDS! CHANGE TO THE BATSON BRATS!
SHAZAM!
BOOOOM!
NOW I'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF THE SKULL SCRAMBLER!
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT, SIR! ONLY .. PLEASE! SCRAMBLE US IN HERE!
WE'RE DREADFULLY AFRAID OF BEING SCRAMBLED OUTDOORS!
YOU ARE, EH? IN THAT CASE... OUTSIDE--BOTH OF YOU! MARCH!
HE FELL FOR IT!
AS SIVANA AND THE TWO YOUNGSTERS LEAVE...
MY TIMING'S PERFECT! UNC'S AWAKENING!
I'LL QUICKLY SWITCH BOOKS..
HE'S GROGGY... AUTOMATICALLY PICKING UP HIS READING MATTER!
BUT INSTEAD OF WEIRD ANIMALS, HE'LL READ ABOUT MARVELS!
18

OUTSIDE
PREPARE YOURSELVES, BRATS... FOR A SIZZLING SKULL-SCRAMBLE!
NO, YOU DON'T..!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL STOP, SIVANA! YOU'RE ONLY TICKLING ME!
CURSES, CURSES, CURSES!
YOU'VE GOT ME.. BUT MY MONSTERS ARE ON THE PROWL!
THEY'LL SMASH... DESTROY.. REND..
YES... MARVELS UNC DREAMED UP!
YOU'RE WRONG! IT'S YOUR MONSTERS WHO'LL BE SMASHED AND DESTROYED!
O-O-O-OTHER MARVELS..?
I GAVE HIM A BOOK OF OUR DEEDS... AND SOAKED THE PAGES WITH SLEEPING POTION!
19

UNC WAS AWAKE LONG ENOUGH TO FIX US IN HIS MIND BEFORE THE POTION SENT HIM TO DREAMLAND!
DREAM SUPER-HEROES ARE PERFECT FOR DEALING WITH DREAM-MONSTERS!
UNC EVEN DREAMED UP A SUPER-POWERED VERSION OF HIMSELF!
EXCUSE ME... I HAVE A FINAL CHORE!
SHAZAM!
BOOM!
I'LL MAKE SURE UNC'S SNOOZING DOESN'T CAUSE ANY MORE DANGER!
KA-WUMP
--WE'VE EARNED A REST... INCLUDING UNC!
AH! WHAT A DREAM! I WAS BATTLING MONSTERS IN MY INIMITABLE FASHION!
NO NEED, UNCLE! WE SAW IT ALL... AND YOU NEVER HAD A BETTER DREAM!
LET ME TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT...
OUR DREAM DUPLICATES ARE FADING TO NOTHINGNESS!
THEIR JOB IS DONE!
AND SO IS OURS--
20
The End

SPEAKING OF BOOKS, ONE OF THE STRANGEST CAPTAIN MARVEL EVER CAME ACROSS ACTUALLY TOLD EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO...BEFORE HE DID IT!

THAT WAS QUITE A MYSTERY...BUT THE SOLUTION WAS EVERY BIT AS STRANGE! READ IT BUT DON'T PEEK AT THE ENDING!

SHAZAM!

THE PROPHETIC BOOK!

N-986

1946

EXPLOITS OF CAPT MARVEL 1946

In the month of ... in the year 1946, a world-famous ... broke and he lost! But Mighty Captain Marvel! ... moment from the ... sweet below and saved him!

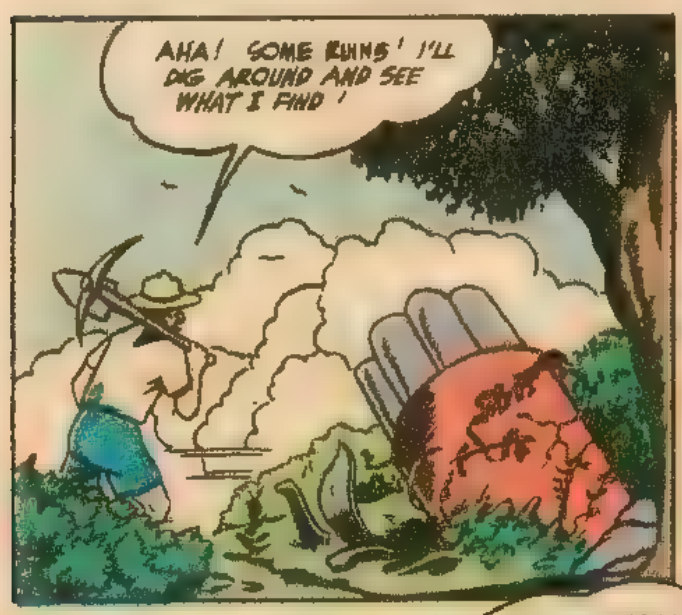
ART PETE COSTANZA

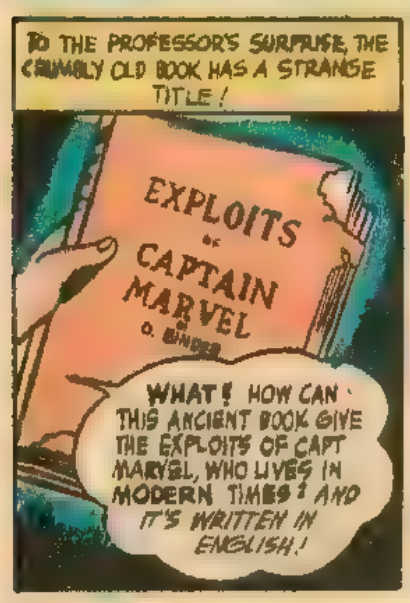
A SCHOLAR, PROFESSOR JOEL BROMPTON, MAKES HIS WAY THROUGH A DENSE FOREST..

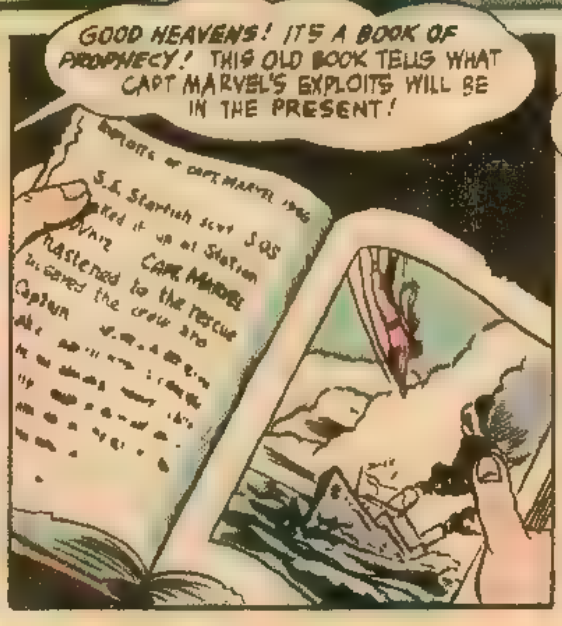
THIS IS OLD INDIAN COUNTRY. I OUGHT TO FIND SOME CLAY TABLETS OR ANCIENT WRITINGS OF THE EARLY AMERICAN NATIVES AROUND HERE!

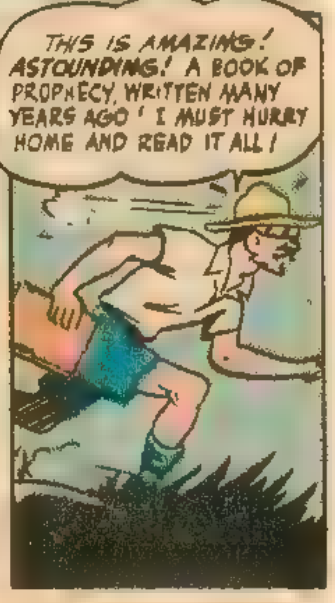
66 by FAWCETT PUBLICATIONS INC

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

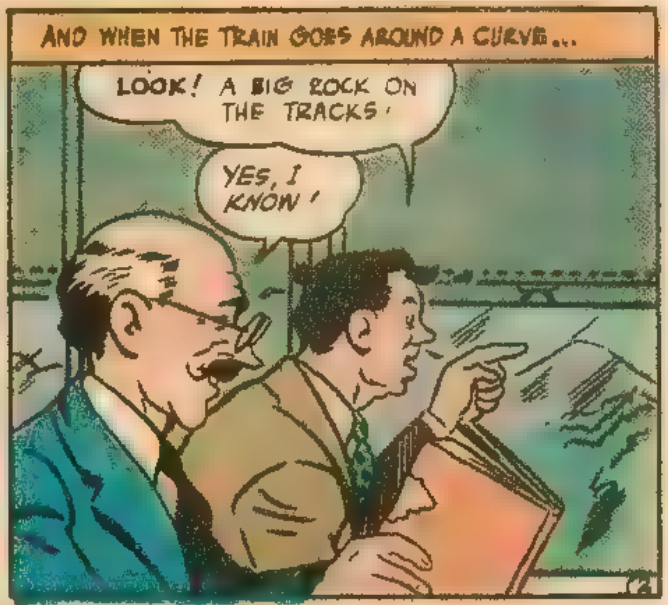



TO THE PROFESSOR'S SURPRISE, THE CRUMBLY OLD BOOK HAS A STRANGE TITLE!
EXPLOITS OF CAPTAIN MARVEL
WHAT! HOW CAN THIS ANCIENT BOOK GIVE THE EXPLOITS OF CAPT MARVEL, WHO LIVES IN MODERN TIMES? AND IT'S WRITTEN IN ENGLISH!





LATER, AS PROF. BROMPTON RETURNS HOME ON THE TRAIN...
SIMPLY AMAZING! THE BOOK EVEN GIVES THE EXACT DATES WHEN ALL THESE CAPT. MARVEL FEATS OCCUR! IF IT ISN'T A FAKE, THEN IN A FEW MINUTES...



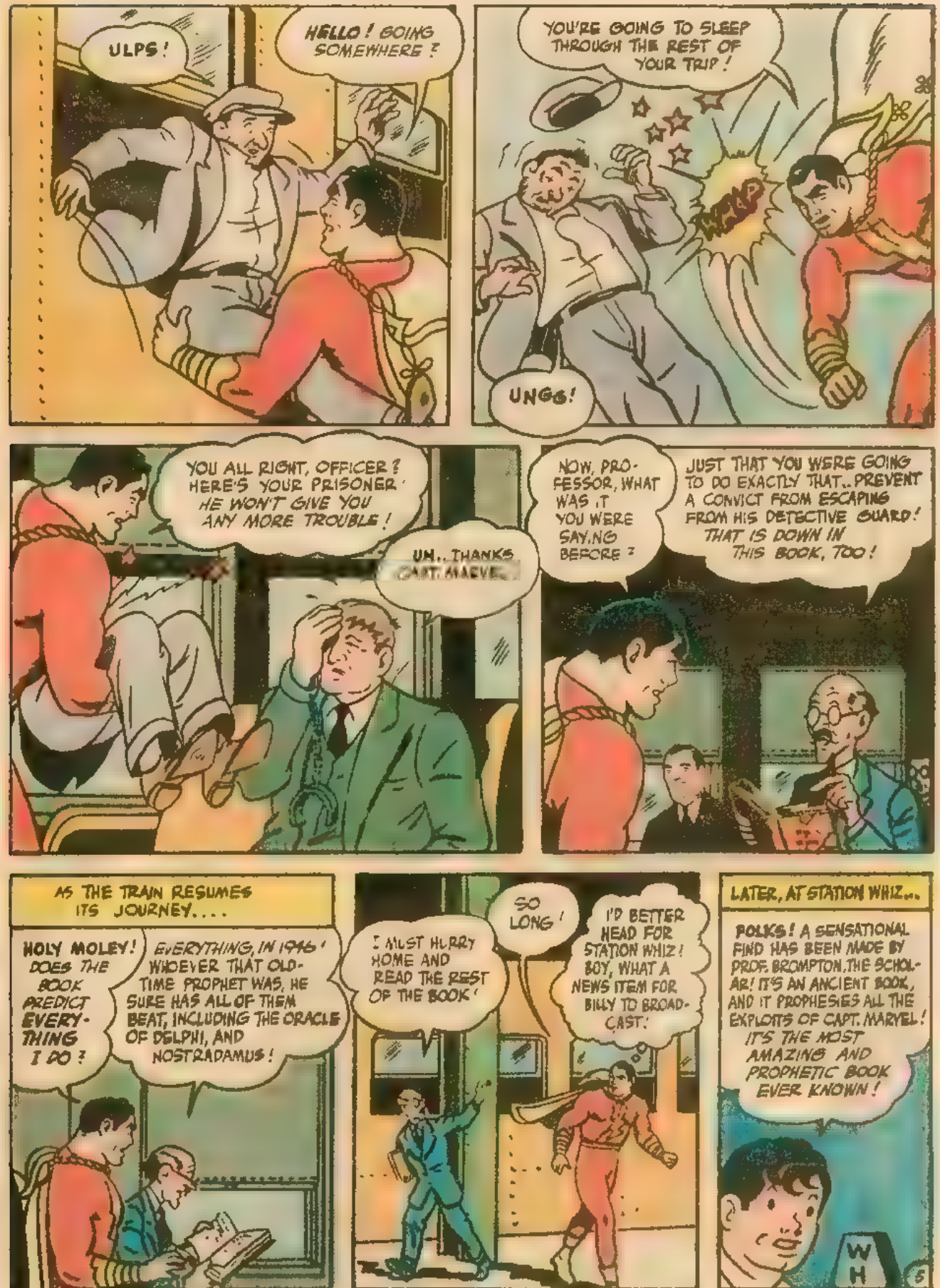
THE PROPHETIC BOOK

BUT THE ENGINE WILL HIT THE ROCK! WE'LL BE WRECKED...
NONSENSE, MY GOOD MAN! CALM DOWN! YOU SEE, CAPT. MARVEL IS GOING TO SAVE THE TRAIN!
IT'S ALL DOWN IN THIS BOOK! CAPT. MARVEL IS GOING TO STOP THE TRAIN JUST IN TIME! SO WHY WORRY? I..ER.. JUST HOPE THE BOOK ISN'T..ER.. WRONG!
CAN THE STRANGE BOOK OF PROPHECY BE RIGHT? WILL CAPT. MARVEL APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE TO PREVENT DISASTER? MEANWHILE, THE TRAIN ROARS AROUND THE CURVE AND.
WATCH OUT! WE'LL NEVER STOP IN TIME!
BUT ONE OF THE PASSENGERS IS NONE OTHER THAN BILLY BATSON, RETURNING FROM A NEWS ASSIGNMENT IN THE COUNTRY!
HOLY MOLEY! A ROCK ON THE TRACKS.. SHAZAM!
WHEN THE BOY NEWSCASTER SHOUTS THAT NAME, IT BRINGS TWO THINGS.. MAGIC LIGHTNING, AND THE GREAT.. CAPT MARVEL!
BOOM!
AND THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL IS QUICKLY ON THE JOB!
I'LL NEED TOP SPEED TO BEAT THE ENGINE TO THE ROCK!
WHOA!
SCREECH
3

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

GOLLY, CAPT. MARVEL! YOU SAVED US FROM A TERRIBLE WRECK!
GOOD WORK, CAPT MARVEL! BUT OF COURSE I KNEW ALL THE TIME YOU WOULD SAVE THE TRAIN! I'M PROFESSOR BROMPTON.
EH? HOW COULD YOU KNOW WHAT I'D DO, IN ADVANCE?
Just as the train seemed about to strike the rock, Capt. Marvel flash
SEE! IT'S PREDICTED IN THIS BOOK OF PROPHECY!
HOLY MOLEY!
THAT BOOK IS AS OLD AS THE HILLS! HOW COULD THAT WRITER, A LONG TIME AGO, TELL ABOUT THINGS I'D DO FAR IN THE FUTURE?
AMAZING, ISN'T IT? BY THE WAY, HERE'S SOMETHING MORE! IT SAYS THAT WHILE THE TRAIN IS STOPPED...
HEY, AREN'T YOU LISTENING?
NO! I HEAR A YELL!
HELP! ...UGH!
A CONVICTED CRIMINAL BEING TAKEN TO PRISON BY A DETECTIVE HAS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE EMERGENCY STOP TO TRY AN ESCAPE!
HAH! DA DICK WAS SO INTERESTED IN WATCHIN' WHAT HAPPENED, DAT I WAS ABLE TO KNOCK HIM OUT! NOW TO FIND HIS KEY AND UNLOCK DA HANDCUFFS...
I CAN HIDE IN DA WOODS!

THE PROPHETIC BOOK


ULPS!
HELLO! GOING SOMEWHERE?
YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP THROUGH THE REST OF YOUR TRIP!
WHAP
UNGG!
YOU ALL RIGHT, OFFICER? HERE'S YOUR PRISONER! HE WON'T GIVE YOU ANY MORE TROUBLE!
UH.. THANKS CAPT. MARVEL.
NOW, PROFESSOR, WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE SAYING BEFORE?
JUST THAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO EXACTLY THAT.. PREVENT A CONVICT FROM ESCAPING FROM HIS DETECTIVE GUARD! THAT IS DOWN IN THIS BOOK, TOO!
AS THE TRAIN RESUMES ITS JOURNEY....
HOLY MOLEY! DOES THE BOOK PREDICT EVERYTHING I DO?
EVERYTHING, IN 1946! WHOEVER THAT OLD-TIME PROPHET WAS, HE SURE HAS ALL OF THEM BEAT, INCLUDING THE ORACLE OF DELPHI, AND NOSTRADAMUS!
I MUST HURRY HOME AND READ THE REST OF THE BOOK!
SO LONG!
I'D BETTER HEAD FOR STATION WHIZ! BOY, WHAT A NEWS ITEM FOR BILLY TO BROADCAST!
LATER, AT STATION WHIZ...
POLKS! A SENSATIONAL FIND HAS BEEN MADE BY PROF. BROMPTON, THE SCHOLAR! IT'S AN ANCIENT BOOK, AND IT PROPHESIES ALL THE EXPLOITS OF CAPT. MARVEL! IT'S THE MOST AMAZING AND PROPHETIC BOOK EVER KNOWN!
WH
5

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

AMONG THOSE WHO LISTEN TO THE NEWS BROADCAST IS SAMUEL STONE, PUBLISHER!
TWO INCIDENTS HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED THAT WERE WRITTEN DOWN IN THE BOOK WORD FOR WORD!
HMM!
A BOOK OF PROPHECY! TELLING OF CAPT. MARVEL'S DEEDS! WHY A BOOK LIKE THAT, IF I PUBLISHED IT, WOULD BE A BEST SELLER! I'M LOSING MONEY AND THAT'S JUST THE THING I NEED!
HERE'S WHERE PROF. BROMPTON LIVES! I'LL MAKE HIM A PROPOSITION TO LET ME PUBLISH THE BOOK!
PROFESSOR! I WANT TO PUBLISH THAT BOOK! NAME YOUR PRICE!
SORRY, NO DEAL! I'M A SCHOLAR AND I'M NOT INTERESTED IN TURNING OUT CHEAP COPIES FOR MONEY
OH, FIDDLE-FADDLE! IT'LL MAKE US BOTH RICH! NOW DON'T BE A STUBBORN OLD IDIOT...
LET GO! YOU CAN'T HAVE IT!
I CAN'T, EH?
BLOP!
UGGG!
AH, I'VE GOT THE BOOK! BUT WAIT, I CAN'T LEAVE THE PROFESSOR LIKE THIS! WHEN HE WAKES UP, HE'LL SET THE POLICE ON ME!
6

THE PROPHETIC BOOK

I'LL TAKE HIM UP IN THE ATTIC..
AND LOCK HIM IN THIS TRUNK! I'LL LET HIM FREE IN A FEW DAYS! MEANWHILE, I CAN PUBLISH THE BOOK! AFTER THAT I'LL BUY HIM OFF WITH BIG MONEY!
AND THE SCHEMING PUBLISHER HASTENS OFF WITH THE PRICELESS BOOK OF PROPHECY!
FIRST, I'LL SELL IT CHAPTER BY CHAPTER TO THE NEWSPAPERS! THE FIRST CHAPTER SHOULD HIT THE NEWSSTANDS TOMORROW!
THE NEXT DAY...
DAILY JOURNAL
PRICELESS BOOK OF PROPHECY FOUND!
CAPTAIN MARVEL'S EXPLOITS REVEALED BY ANCIENT BOOK
READ THE FIRST INSTALLMENT BELOW!
MEANWHILE, AT A CRIME DEN, THE NOTORIOUS GANG LEADER, GUNNER GALLO, PLOTS WITH HIS HENCHMEN!
WE'RE GONNA PULL DAT MAIL JOB TODAY, GUYS! WE GO TO DA CENTRAL POST OFFICE AND RAID 'DA PLACE!
HEY, BOSS! WE GOTTA CALL IT OFF! DIS IS MAGIC OR SOMETHIN'! OUR WHOLE CRIME JOB IS DOWN IN DA NEWSPAPER! AND IT SAYS DAT CAPT. MARVEL STOPS US!
WHAT?
HOLY SMOKE! WALKIN' INTO A TRAP!
PREDICTIONS OF THE BOOK OF PROPHECY!
Gunner Gallo and his gang will attempt to rob the Central Post Office, but Captain Marvel will appear and capture the gang!
7

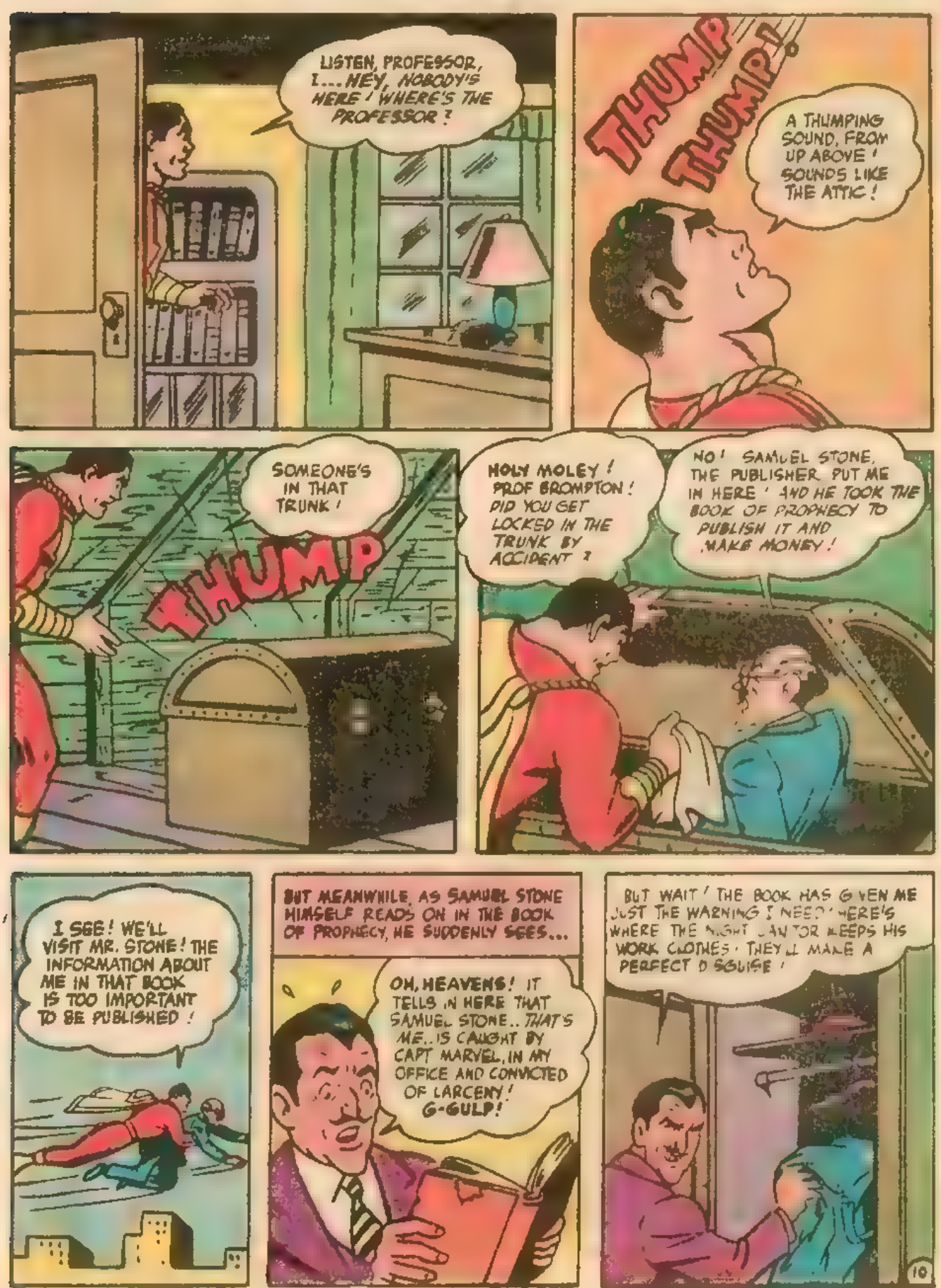
SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

BUT, WAIT! LET'S PLAY SMART! INSTEAD OF ROBBIN' DA MAIN POST OFFICE, WE'LL GO AN' KNOCK OFF DA BRANCH OFFICE! HA, HA! DAT BOOK OF PROPHECY DONE US A GOOD TURN!
AND SO, TIPPED OFF BY THE UNCANNY BOOK OF PROPHECY, THE GANG MAKES ITS WAY TO THE BRANCH POST OFFICE!
CAPT. MARVEL WOULDA STOPPED US AT DA ODDER PLACE! BUT HE WON'T BE HERE! HE CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE! LET'S GO!
REAR ENTRANCE
ROBBERS!
BULLETIN BOARD
BANG!
GRAB DA MAIL BOYS!
BUT LOOK WHO IS MAILING A LETTER AT THIS MOMENT... BILLY BATSON!
SOUNDS LIKE A ROBBERY... SHAZAM!
BANG
AGAIN MAGIC LIGHTNING BRINGS THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL!
BOOM
YIPE! LOOK! CAPT MARVEL!
BUT.. BUT DAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
IMPOSSIBLE, IS IT? IS THIS JUST YOUR IMAGINATION?
YOWW!
BAM
8

THE PROPHETIC BOOK

THE DESPERATE GANG RESORTS TO GUN-FIRE!
PLUG HIM!
BUT BULLETS HAVE NO MORE EFFECT ON THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL THAN FEATHERS!
BAM!!
SOK
BIFF!!
THE NEXT MAIL YOU GUYS GET WILL BE IN JAIL!
YOU'LL FIND THE REST OF THE GANG INSIDE! HERE'S GUNNER GALLO!
GROAN! WE'RE CAUGHT AFTER ALL! DEN DAT BOOK OF PROPHECY IS ALL DA BUNK! IT SAID DAT YOU WOULD STOP US AT DA CENTRAL POST OFFICE, BUT NOT HERE AT DA BRANCH!
NO, THE BOOK WASN'T WRONG! IT SAID THE CENTRAL POST OFFICE, WHICH MEANT THE BRANCH AT CENTRAL STREET! SEE 2
CENTRAL
CURSES! WHY DIDN'T WE STAY HOME INSTEAD OF TRYIN' TO PLAY SMART?
COME ALONG QUIETLY NOW!
SAY! I DIDN'T THINK PROFESSOR BROMPTON WOULD SELL THE BOOK FOR CHEAP PUBLICITY!
READ THE BOOK OF PROPHECY! CAPT MARVEL'S EXPLOITS PREDICTED
THIS IS DANGEROUS! IT LETS CROOKS KNOW HOW WE'LL STOP THEIR CRIMES! I MUST PREVENT THE PROFESSOR FROM RELEASING ANY MORE INSTALLMENTS FROM THE BOOK OF PROPHECY!

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!


LISTEN, PROFESSOR, I... HEY, NOBODY'S HERE! WHERE'S THE PROFESSOR?
THUMP THUMP!
A THUMPING SOUND, FROM UP ABOVE! SOUNDS LIKE THE ATTIC!
SOMEONE'S IN THAT TRUNK!
THUMP
HOLY MOLEY! PROF BROMPTON! DID YOU GET LOCKED IN THE TRUNK BY ACCIDENT?
NO! SAMUEL STONE, THE PUBLISHER, PUT ME IN HERE! AND HE TOOK THE BOOK OF PROPHECY TO PUBLISH IT AND MAKE MONEY!
I SEE! WE'LL VISIT MR. STONE! THE INFORMATION ABOUT ME IN THAT BOOK IS TOO IMPORTANT TO BE PUBLISHED!
BUT MEANWHILE, AS SAMUEL STONE HIMSELF READS ON IN THE BOOK OF PROPHECY, HE SUDDENLY SEES...
OH, HEAVENS! IT TELLS IN HERE THAT SAMUEL STONE.. THAT'S ME.. IS CAUGHT BY CAPT MARVEL, IN MY OFFICE AND CONVICTED OF LARCENY! G-GULP!
BUT WAIT! THE BOOK HAS GIVEN ME JUST THE WARNING I NEED! HERE'S WHERE THE NIGHT JANITOR KEEPS HIS WORK CLOTHES! THEY'LL MAKE A PERFECT DISGUISE!
10

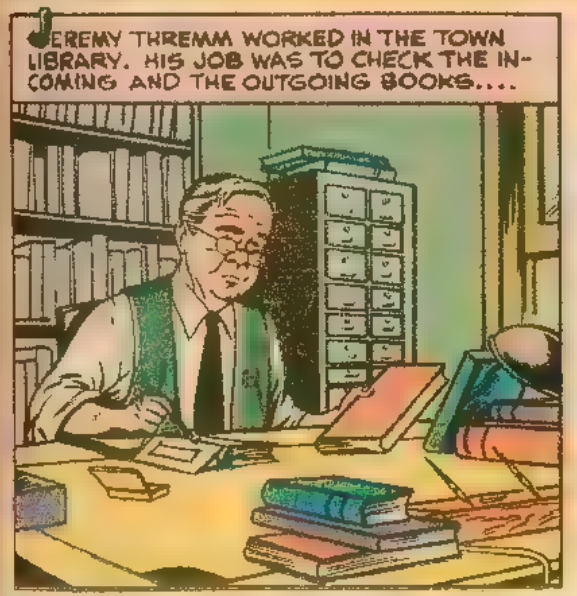
THE PROPHETIC BOOK

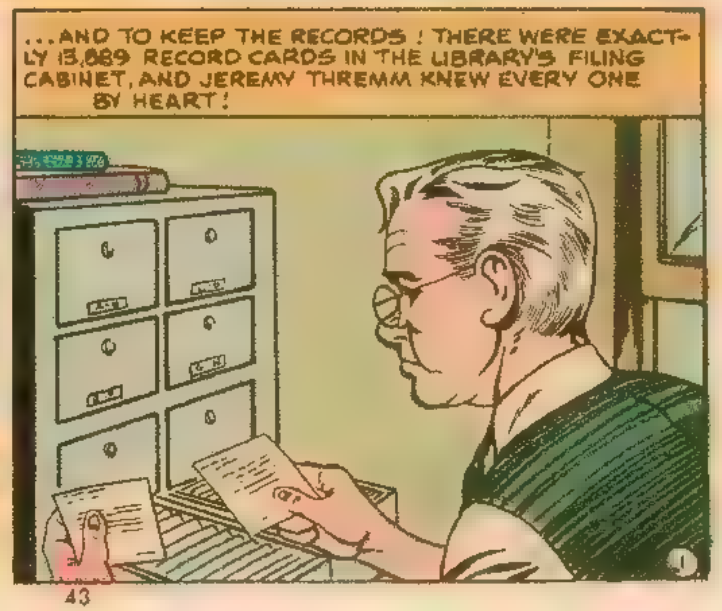
HERE'S STONE'S OFFICE ! BUT WHERE'S STONE ?
MAYBE THE JANITOR KNOWS ! IS SAMUEL STONE AROUND ?
ME NO SPIK INGLIS !
HEY, JANITOR ! SWEEP UP THIS HALL BETTER, WILL YOU ?
YES, SIR ! RIGHT AWAY, SIR !
HMM ! HE DOESN'T SPEAK ENGLISH EH ?
IN DISGUISE, AND TRYING TO SNEAK AWAY, EH ?
THAT'S THE ONE.. SAMUEL STONE !
POW!
AND HERE'S THE BOOK OF PROPHECY !
YOU'VE GOT ME ... JUST LIKE THE BOOK SAID ! BUT I THOUGHT SURE THE WARNING WOULD LET ME ESCAPE !
YOU DIDN'T READ FAR ENOUGH, STONE ! IT SAYS HERE THAT YOU ATTEMPTED TO ELUDE CAPT. MARVEL, IN A DISGUISE, BUT GAVE YOURSELF AWAY.. EXACTLY AS IT HAPPENED ! IT LOOKS LIKE THE BOOK OF PROPHECY IS JUST NEVER WRONG !
GOSH, THIS BOOK IS SURE A WONDER, PREDICTING EVERYTHING I DO... HOLY MOLEY ! LOOK, PROFESSOR.. I JUST NOTICED SOMETHING ON THE FLYLEAF, IN SMALL LETTERS !

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

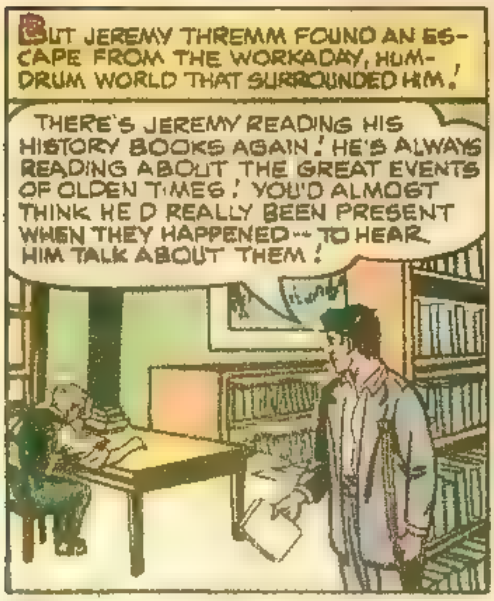
MOST STARTLING OF ALL IS THE PUBLICATION DATE OF THE WEIRD BOOK!
IT WAS PRINTED IN THE FUTURE, 1977, INSTEAD OF WAY IN THE PAST!
PRINTED IN U.S.A.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! HOW COULD A BOOK, PRINTED 30 YEARS FROM NOW, EXIST TODAY? AND WHY IS IT OLD AND CRUMBLY?
WHERE DID YOU FIND THE BOOK? THE ANSWER MUST LIE THERE! GIVE ME DIRECTIONS!
LATER, BACK IN THE WILD FOREST WHERE THE PROFESSOR FIRST FOUND THE BOOK...
HERE ARE THE RUINS WHERE I FOUND THE BOOK!
RUINS! THIS IS THE WRECK OF SOME KIND OF PLANE! LOOK, THE PILOT DIED AT THE CONTROLS, WHEN HE CRASHED!
THIS NOTEBOOK WAS AMONG THE BONES! IT'S THIS MAN'S PERSONAL RECORD! HE LIVED IN 1977, IT SAYS! HE INVENTED A TIME-SHIP, AND WENT BACK IN TIME TO 1900!
NOW I SEE WHAT HAPPENED! HE GOT BACK TO 1900 ALL RIGHT.. BUT THE SHIP CRASHED WHEN HE ARRIVED! HE WAS KILLED! SO HIS BONES AND THE WRECK HAVE BEEN MOLDERING AWAY HERE, IN THIS FOREST, SINCE 1900!
SO THAT'S WHY THE BOOK OF PROPHECY SEEMED ANCIENT... BECAUSE IT WAS ROTTING AWAY HERE FOR 46 YEARS!
BUT OF COURSE IT'S NOT A BOOK OF PROPHECY AT ALL! IT'S SIMPLY THE RECORD OF WHAT I DID IN 1946, WHICH WAS ALL OLD NEWS TO THE PEOPLE OF 1977! HE MUST HAVE BROUGHT THE BOOK ALONG ONLY TO PROVE THAT HE ACTUALLY CAME FROM 1977!
EXPLOITS OF CAPTAIN MARVEL
AND SO, FOLKS, THE SO-CALLED BOOK OF PROPHECY TURNED OUT TO BE A BOOK FROM THE FUTURE, NOT THE PAST! BUT NO MORE OF CAPT. MARVEL'S EXPLOITS WILL BE KNOWN IN ADVANCE, BECAUSE VOLUME ONE ENDED THERE! THE TIME-TRAVELER DIDN'T BRING ALONG THE REST OF THE SET! AND CAPT. MARVEL IS GLAD OF THAT!
EXPLOITS OF CAPTAIN MARVEL IN 1946 VOL. 1
WHIZ
THE END.
12

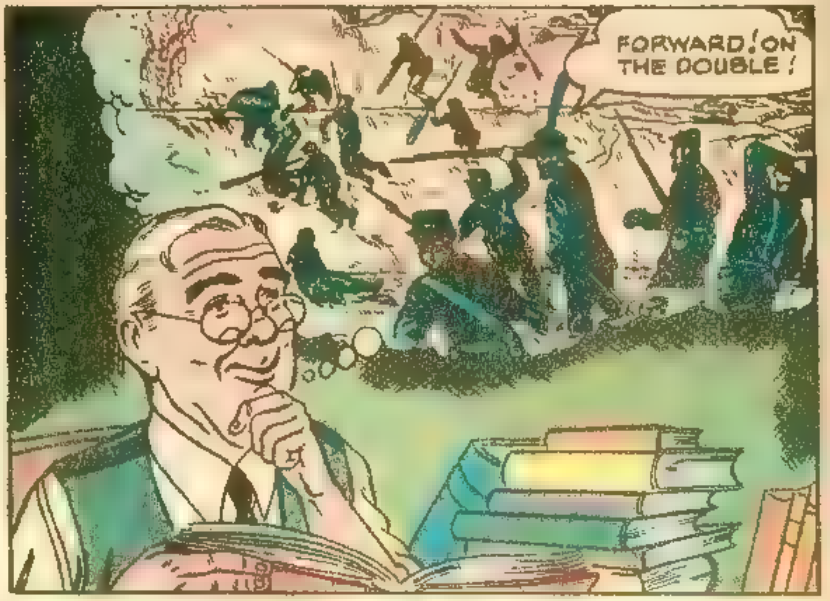
AS NEWSBOY FREDDY FREEMAN, I HAVE MORE TO DO WITH NEWSPAPERS THAN BOOKS! BUT I RECALL A MAN WHO LOVED BOOKS AND REALLY GOT INTO WHAT HE READ TOO MUCH I THOUGHT!
YOU SEE, HIS FAVORITES WERE HISTORY BOOKS AND THE TIME CAME WHEN HE NO LONGER JUST READ THEM! CAPTAIN MARVEL JR HAD TO DO SOME TIME-TRAVELING TO HELP HIM OUT!
Capt. MARVEL Jr.
and
THE MAN WHO LIVED HISTORY!
N 987
HOLY MOLEY! HOW DID JEREMY THREMM GET ABOARD ONE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS' SHIPS?
THE YEAR 1492 WILL LIVE IN HISTORY! TAKE MY WORD FOR IT! AND SAIL ON!
© 1949 by FAWCETT PUBLICATIONS, INC.
WHAT IS A CITIZEN FROM THE YEAR 1949 DOING BACK IN THE ADVENTUROUS DAYS OF DISCOVERY THAT BEGAN WITH THE MEMORABLE VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS IN 1492? YOU'LL FIND THE SURPRISING ANSWER IN THE UNUSUAL ENCOUNTER CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. HAD WITH THE MAN WHO LIVED HISTORY!

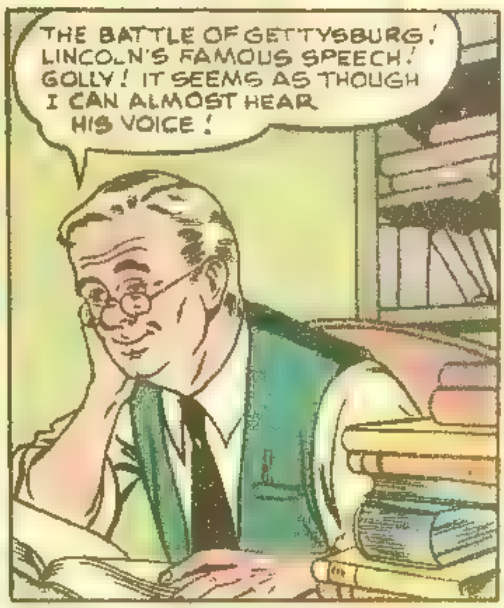

JEREMY THREMM WORKED IN THE TOWN LIBRARY. HIS JOB WAS TO CHECK THE INCOMING AND THE OUTGOING BOOKS....


...AND TO KEEP THE RECORDS! THERE WERE EXACTLY 13,089 RECORD CARDS IN THE LIBRARY'S FILING CABINET, AND JEREMY THREMM KNEW EVERY ONE BY HEART!

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!


BUT JEREMY THREMM FOUND AN ESCAPE FROM THE WORKADAY, HUM-DRUM WORLD THAT SURROUNDED HIM!
THERE'S JEREMY READING HIS HISTORY BOOKS AGAIN! HE'S ALWAYS READING ABOUT THE GREAT EVENTS OF OLDEN TIMES! YOU'D ALMOST THINK HE'D REALLY BEEN PRESENT WHEN THEY HAPPENED -- TO HEAR HIM TALK ABOUT THEM!



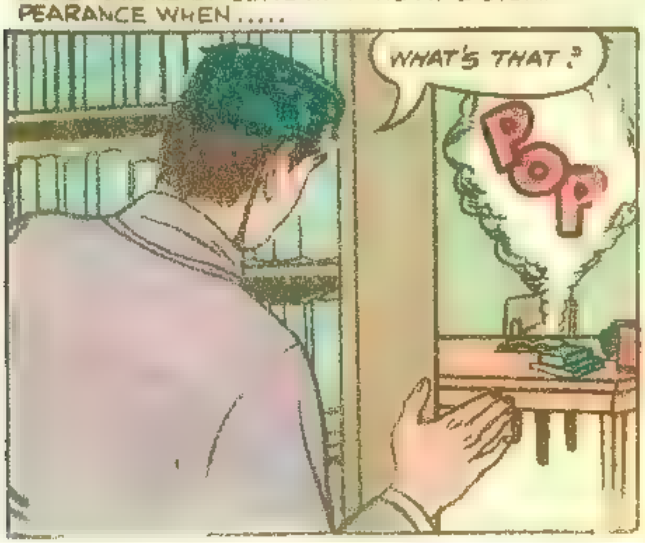


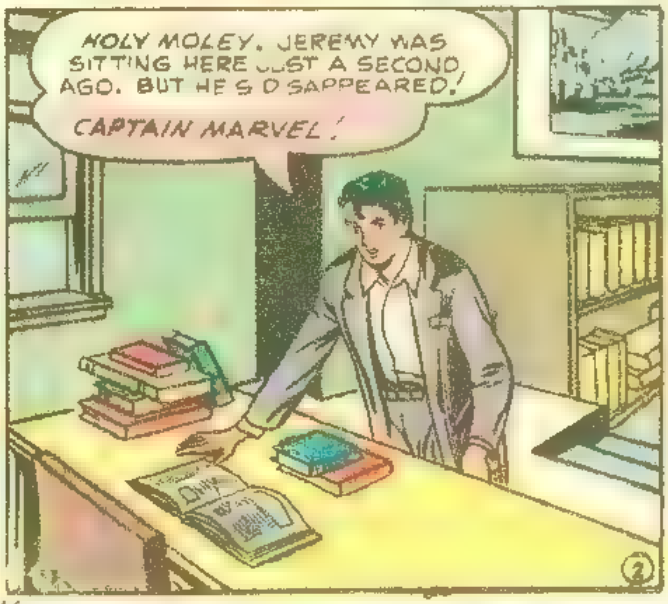
YES, FOR JEREMY THREMM THE PAST WAS FAR MORE REAL THAN THE PRESENT.

PERHAPS, IN SOME WAY NOT YET KNOWN TO SCIENCE, THAT EXPLAINS THE STRANGE THING THAT HAPPENED TO HIM.

FOR EINSTEIN HAS SAID THAT TIME IS ONLY AN ILLUSION. AND IF SO, SURELY THE MIND CAN PLAY TRICKS OF ITS OWN WITH TIME.

IN ANY EVENT, FREDDY FREEMAN FIRST BECAME AWARE OF JEREMY THREMM'S DISAPPEARANCE WHEN . . . . .





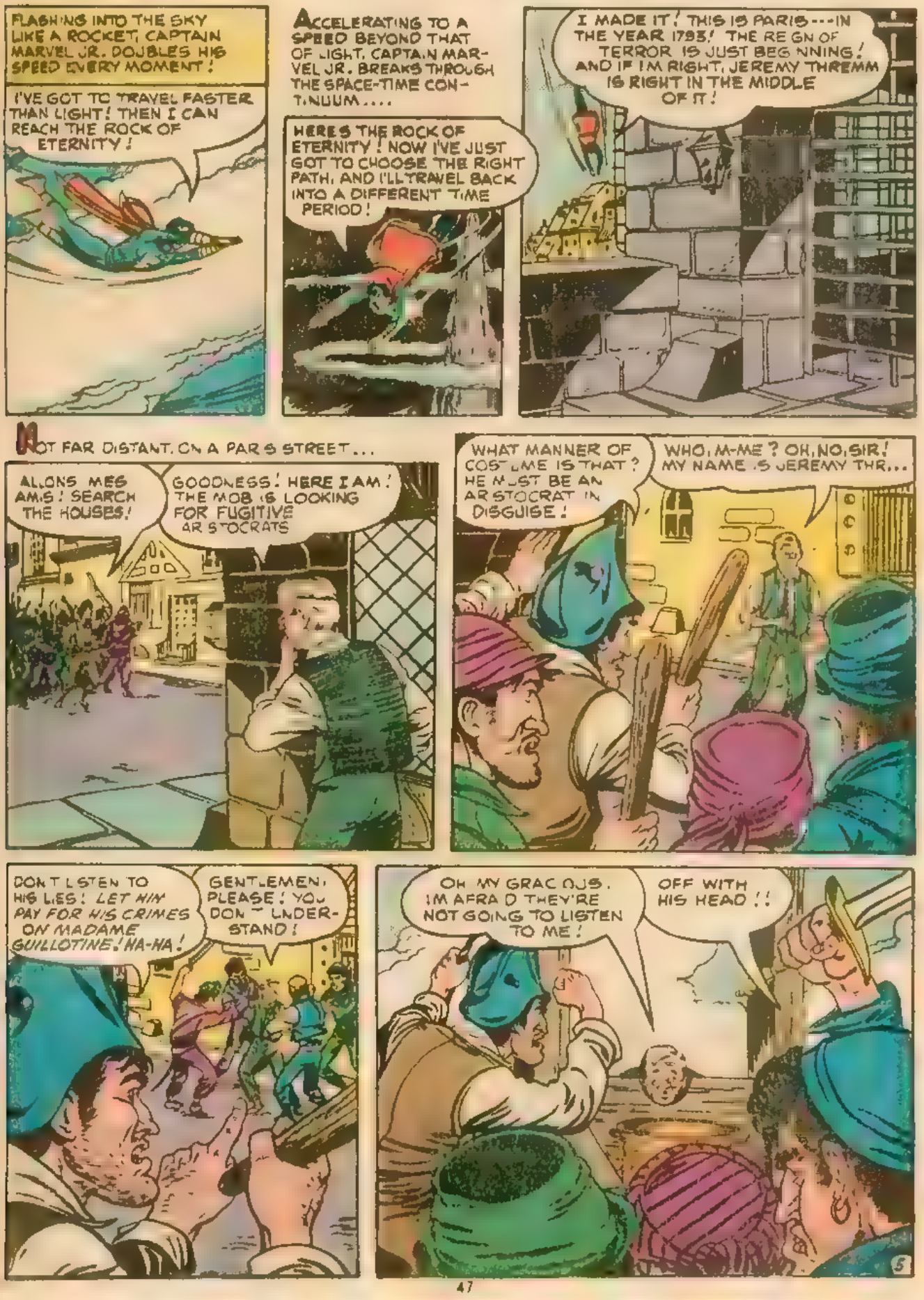
THE MAN WHO LIVED HISTORY

WHEN FREDDY FREEMAN, CRIPPLED NEWSBOY SAYS THE NAME OF HIS HERO ALOUD, HE IS ANSWERED BY MAGIC LIGHTNING THAT CHANGES HIM INTO THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY.... CAPTAIN MARVEL JR!
BOOM!
NOT A SIGN OF JEREMY ANYWHERE! HE'S NOT UNDER THE READING BENCH... AND THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE HE COULD BE!
BUT I'LL JUST MAKE SURE BY GOING THE PLACE A QUICK ONCE-OVER.
HE'S GONE, ALL RIGHT! VANISHED WHILE HE WAS READING ABOUT LINCOLN'S FAMOUS GETTYSBURG ADDRESS! I MAY AS WELL REPORT THIS TO THE POLICE!
MOMENTS LATER...
HE WAS SITTING RIGHT AT THIS TABLE OVER HERE, OFFICER BELLOWS! THEN I HEARD A POPPING SOUND AND....
WHO'S THAT SITTING THERE NOW?
JEREMY! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
TO ME? WHY.. UH.. NOTHING AT ALL! I'VE BEEN SITTING HERE AND READING THIS BOOK!
YOU MADE A MISTAKE THIS TIME, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. MAYBE YOU'D BETTER STOP WORKING SO HARD-- OR YOU'LL REALLY START IMAGINING THINGS!
THANKS FOR COMING ANYWAY, OFFICER BELLOWS.
HMM. WHAT'S THIS PROGRAM DOING HERE? I DIDN'T NOTICE IT BEFORE!

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

HOLY MOLEY!
GETTYSBURG CEREMONY
PRINCIPAL SPEAKER
A. LINCOLN
ALSO AN ADDRESS BY EDWARD EVERETT
NOV. 19, 1863
THIS IS AN ORIGINAL PROGRAM OF THE DAY THAT ABRAHAM LINCOLN MADE HIS GETTYSBURG ADDRESS! IT LOOKS NEW, TOO! JEREMY THREMM MUST HAVE DROPPED IT OUT OF HIS POCKET!
BUT HOW DID HE GET IT? DOES THIS EXPLAIN WHERE HE WENT DURING THAT MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE? I'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON JEREMY THREMM!
LATER, WHEN JEREMY THREMM REACHES THE PRIVACY OF HIS OWN QUARTERS...
I'M ALMOST TOO EXCITED TO THINK! IT REALLY HAPPENED TO ME...IT REALLY DID! I WAS READING ABOUT GETTYSBURG, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN I WAS THERE!
IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE! YET MAYBE I CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN AGAIN! IF I CONCENTRATE ON THIS BOOK ABOUT THE FRENCH REVOLUTION THAT I BORROWED FROM THE LIBRARY...
JEREMY SEEMS INNOCENT ENOUGH! HE'S JUST READING A BOOK!
AND THEN...
HOLY MOLEY! HE'S GONE AGAIN!
POOF
I'M NOT SEEING THINGS THAT DON'T HAPPEN. JEREMY DOES DISAPPEAR!...HMM! AND I'VE GOT AN IDEA WHERE HE'S GONE TO THIS TIME! HE WAS READING ABOUT THE HEIGHT OF THE FAMOUS FRENCH REVOLUTION!
4

THE MAN WHO LIVED HISTORY


FLASHING INTO THE SKY LIKE A ROCKET, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. DOUBLES HIS SPEED EVERY MOMENT!
I'VE GOT TO TRAVEL FASTER THAN LIGHT! THEN I CAN REACH THE ROCK OF ETERNITY!
ACCELERATING TO A SPEED BEYOND THAT OF LIGHT, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. BREAKS THROUGH THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM....
HERE'S THE ROCK OF ETERNITY! NOW I'VE JUST GOT TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PATH, AND I'LL TRAVEL BACK INTO A DIFFERENT TIME PERIOD!
I MADE IT! THIS IS PARIS---IN THE YEAR 1793! THE REIGN OF TERROR IS JUST BEGINNING! AND IF I'M RIGHT, JEREMY THREMM IS RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT!
NOT FAR DISTANT, ON A PARIS STREET...
ALLONS MES AMIS! SEARCH THE HOUSES!
GOODNESS! HERE I AM! THE MOB IS LOOKING FOR FUGITIVE ARISTOCRATS
WHAT MANNER OF COSTUME IS THAT? HE MUST BE AN ARISTOCRAT IN DISGUISE!
WHO, M-ME? OH, NO, SIR! MY NAME IS JEREMY THR...
DON'T LISTEN TO HIS LIES! LET HIM PAY FOR HIS CRIMES ON MADAME GUILLOTINE! HA-HA!
GENTLEMEN, PLEASE! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
OH MY GRACIOUS, I'M AFRAID THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO ME!
OFF WITH HIS HEAD!!
5

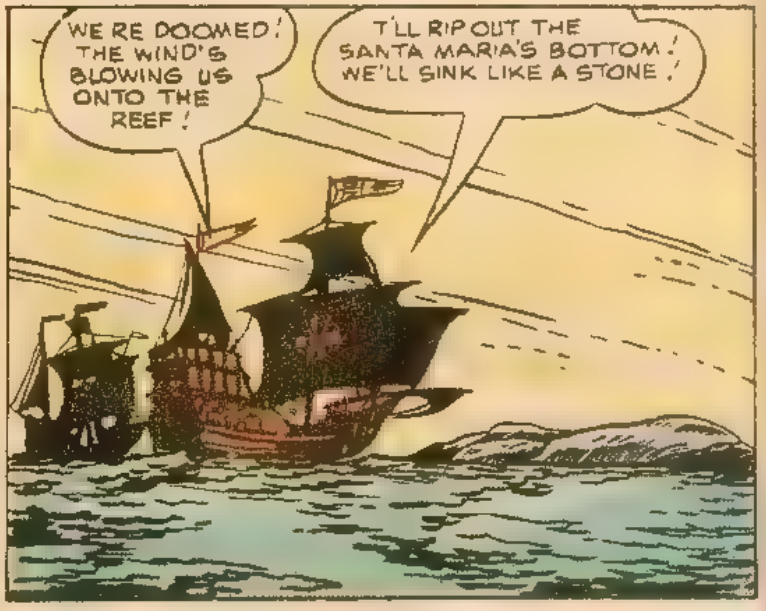
SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

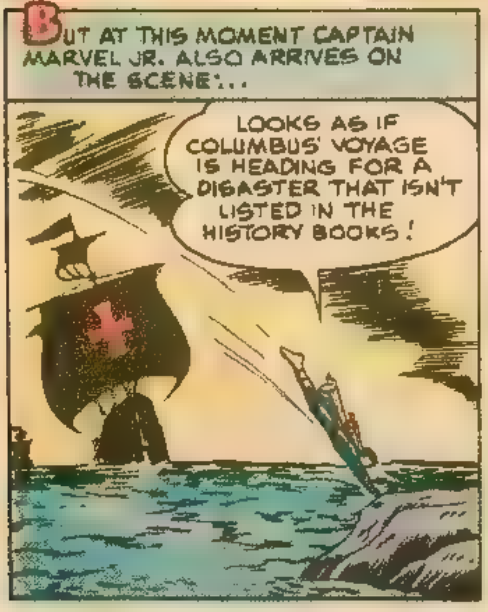
HOLY MOLEY!
WHANG!
ANOTHER BLUEBLOOD! ILL...UGHH!
JUST STAY OUT OF MY WAY!
BOOM!
THE BOY IS A TRAITOR!
HE'S AGAINST THE PEOPLE! KILL HIM!
WAIT!
I'M NOT AGAINST YOUR REVOLUTION! HISTORY WILL PROVE THAT YOU FOUGHT TO OVERTHROW THE TYRANNICAL RULE OF THE KINGS AND NOBLES! BUT DO NOT SHED THE BLOOD OF THE INNOCENT WITH THE GUILTY!
TEMPER YOUR JUSTICE WITH MERCY! BE CHARITABLE IN THE HOUR OF YOUR TRIUMPH! WHEN YOU ESTABLISH A DEMOCRACY, GUARD THE IDEALS OF LIBERTY, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY!
AND SO CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. WINS OVER THE MOB WITH THE WORDS THAT ARE THE BATTLE-CRY OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION
LIBERTY! EQUALITY! FRATERNITY!
LONG LIVE FRANCE!
HOLY MOLEY! JEREMY THREMM DISAPPEARED AGAIN!
POOF
6

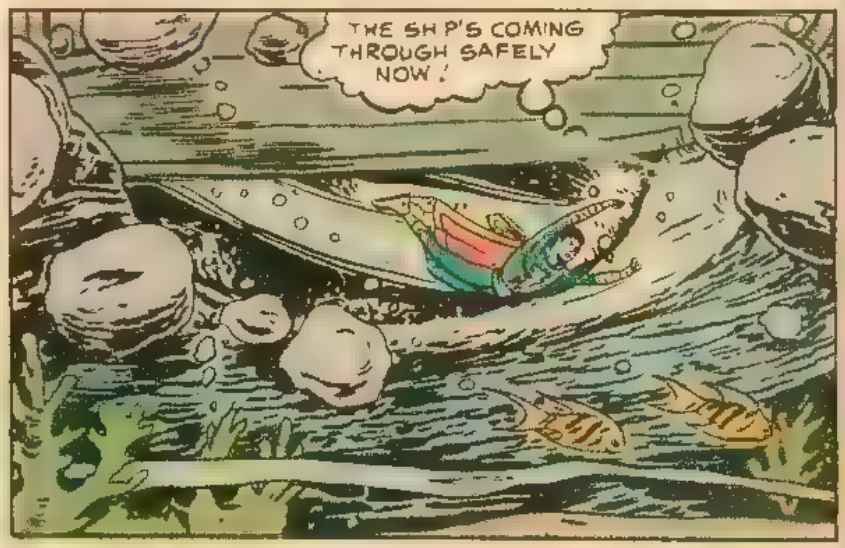
THE MAN WHO LIVED HISTORY

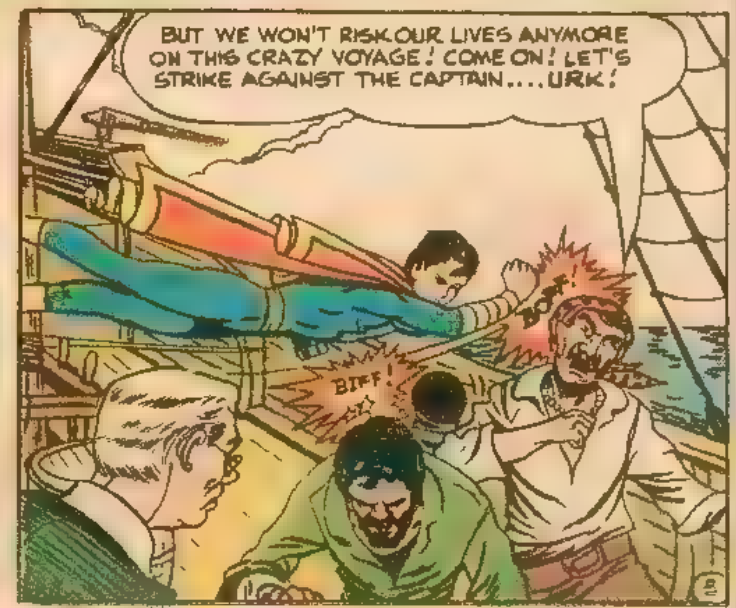
HE MUST HAVE RETURNED TO THE YEAR 1949! VE GOT TO MAKE SURE HE STAYS THERE, AND DOESN'T GET INTO ANY MORE TROUBLE! AH! THERE'S THE ROCK OF ETERNITY AGAIN!
MOMENTS LATER, BACK AT THE TOWN LIBRARY...
TELL ME, HAS JEREMY THREMM BEEN HERE?
OH, YES! HE BORROWED A HISTORY BOOK TO READ.
THAT'S QUEER! HE WAS SITTING RIGHT OVER THERE A SECOND AGO, READING ABOUT THE FIRST VOYAGE OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.
OH, NO!
HERE WE GO AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO CHASE JEREMY THREMM BACK TO THE YEAR 1492!
AND ABOARD A SMALL SAILING VESSEL NAMED THE SANTA MARIA, NOT TOO FAR FROM THE SHORES OF A YET UNDISCOVERED CONTINENT...
GOODNESS! THIS IS THRILLING! I'M ACTUALLY ON THE SAME BOAT WITH CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS!
HE'S SAILING US RIGHT OVER THE EDGE OF THE WORLD IF YOU ASK ME!
THERE'S NO LAND HERE! CAPTAIN COLUMBUS IS ASKING US TO SAIL TO CERTAIN DEATH!
WE WON'T DO IT! TONIGHT, WE'LL SNEAK INTO COLUMBUS' CABIN AND THROW HIM TO THE FISHES! THEN WE'LL SAIL BACK HOME AGAIN.
OH, NO, GENTLEMEN! YOU MUSTN'T DO THAT! IF YOU KILL CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DISCOVER AMERICA!
EH? WHO'S THIS LUNATIC?

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!




BUT AT THIS MOMENT CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. ALSO ARRIVES ON THE SCENE...
LOOKS AS IF COLUMBUS' VOYAGE IS HEADING FOR A DISASTER THAT ISN'T LISTED IN THE HISTORY BOOKS!


SWIFTLY, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY CUTS OUT A CLEAR CHANNEL THROUGH THE HEART OF THE DEADLY REEF!
THE SHIP'S COMING THROUGH SAFELY NOW!

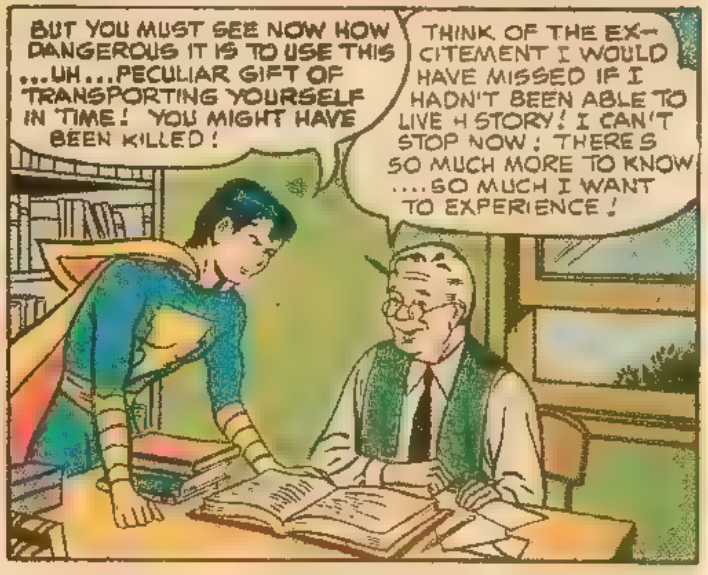


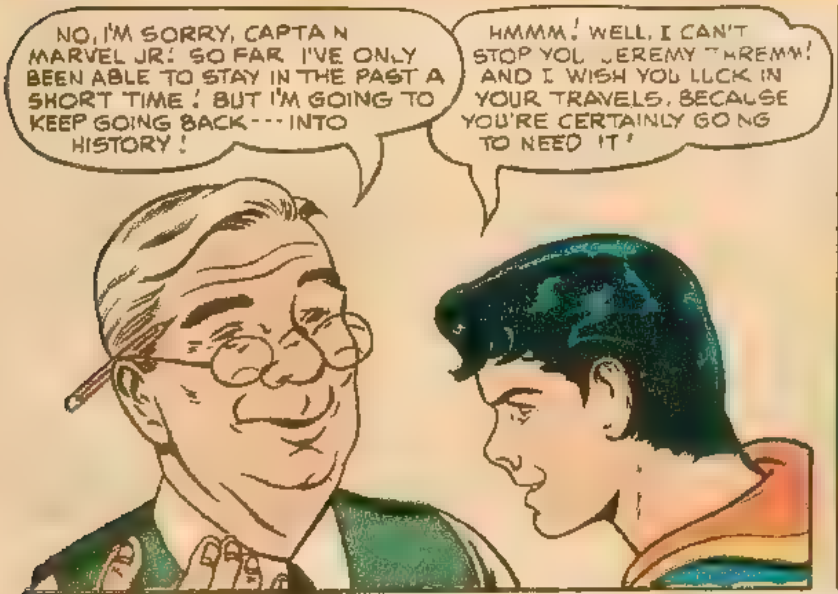
THE MAN WHO LIVED HISTORY

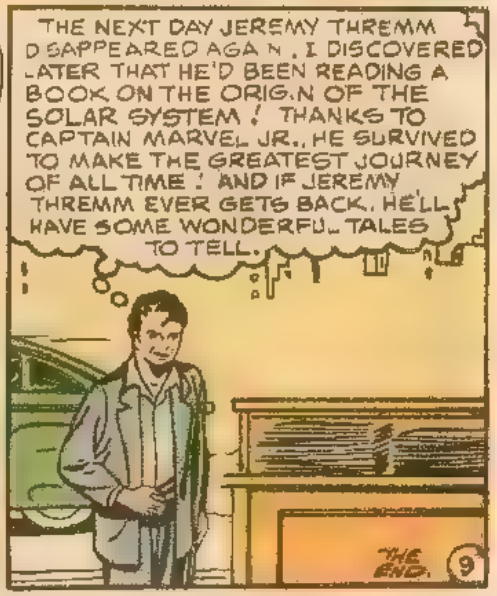
WELL, I SAVED YOUR LIFE IN THE NICK OF TIME AGAIN! I HOPE YOU'LL BE SATISFIED TO STAY IN 1949 WHERE YOU BELONG AFTER THIS!
LISTEN, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR.!
LAND HO!

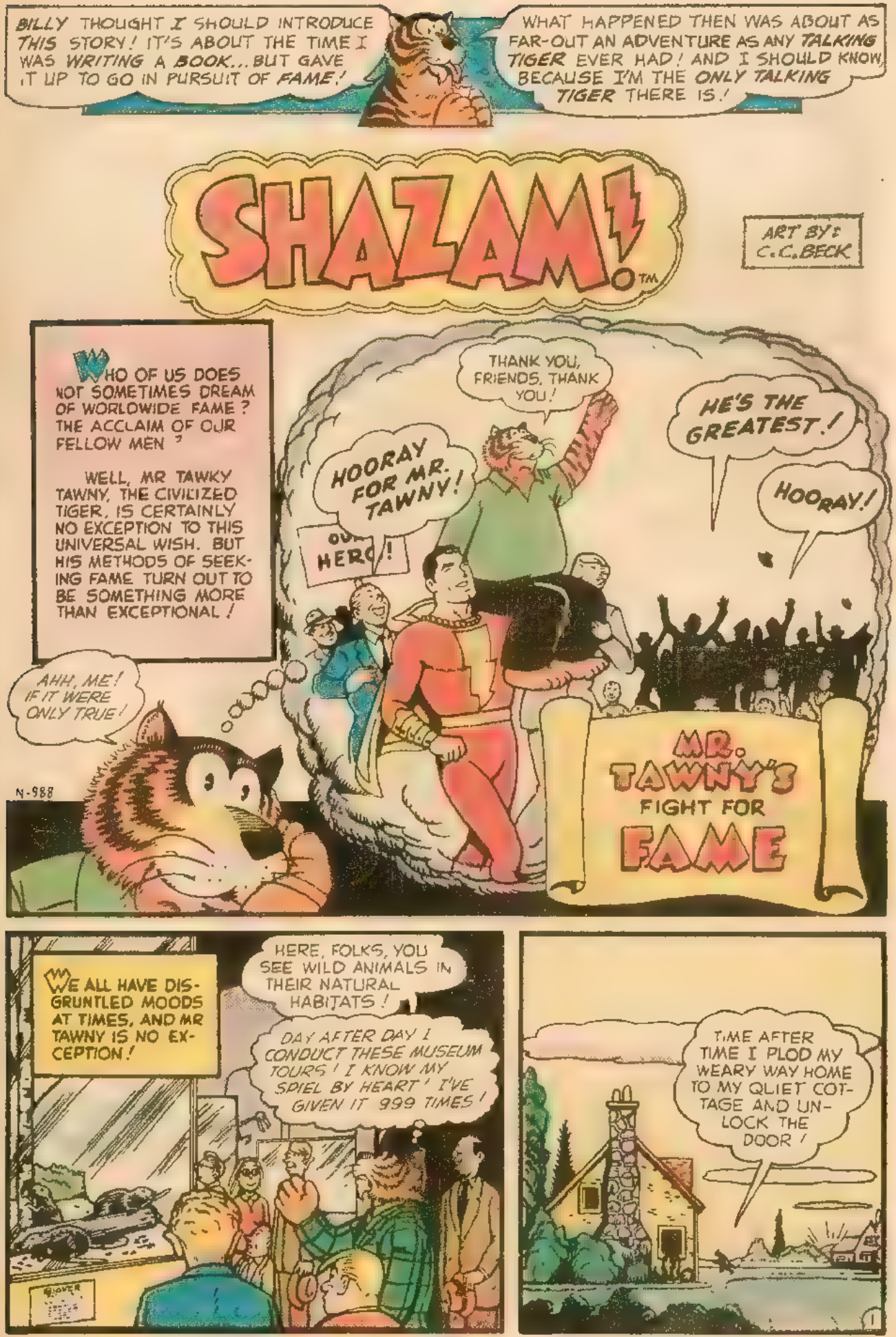
JUST THINK OF IT, THAT'S AMERICA AHEAD OF US! WE'VE BEEN PRESENT AT THE ACTUAL DISCOVERY OF AMERICA BY COLUMBUS!
HOLY MOLEY! IT IS A THRILLING EXPERIENCE!

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, BACK AT THE LIBRARY...


BUT YOU MUST SEE NOW HOW DANGEROUS IT IS TO USE THIS ...UH...PECULIAR GIFT OF TRANSPORTING YOURSELF IN TIME! YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN KILLED!
THINK OF THE EXCITEMENT I WOULD HAVE MISSED IF I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO LIVE HISTORY! I CAN'T STOP NOW: THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO KNOW ....SO MUCH I WANT TO EXPERIENCE!


NO, I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN MARVEL JR! SO FAR I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO STAY IN THE PAST A SHORT TIME! BUT I'M GOING TO KEEP GOING BACK---INTO HISTORY!
HMMM! WELL, I CAN'T STOP YOU, JEREMY THREMM! AND I WISH YOU LUCK IN YOUR TRAVELS, BECAUSE YOU'RE CERTAINLY GOING TO NEED IT!


THE NEXT DAY JEREMY THREMM DISAPPEARED AGAIN. I DISCOVERED LATER THAT HE'D BEEN READING A BOOK ON THE ORIGIN OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM! THANKS TO CAPTAIN MARVEL JR., HE SURVIVED TO MAKE THE GREATEST JOURNEY OF ALL TIME! AND IF JEREMY THREMM EVER GETS BACK, HE'LL HAVE SOME WONDERFUL TALES TO TELL.
THE END.
9


BILLY THOUGHT I SHOULD INTRODUCE THIS STORY! IT'S ABOUT THE TIME I WAS WRITING A BOOK... BUT GAVE IT UP TO GO IN PURSUIT OF FAME!
WHAT HAPPENED THEN WAS ABOUT AS FAR-OUT AN ADVENTURE AS ANY TALKING TIGER EVER HAD! AND I SHOULD KNOW, BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY TALKING TIGER THERE IS!
SHAZAM!
ART BY: C.C.BECK
WHO OF US DOES NOT SOMETIMES DREAM OF WORLDWIDE FAME? THE ACCLAIM OF OUR FELLOW MEN?
WELL, MR TAWKY TAWNY, THE CIVILIZED TIGER, IS CERTAINLY NO EXCEPTION TO THIS UNIVERSAL WISH. BUT HIS METHODS OF SEEKING FAME TURN OUT TO BE SOMETHING MORE THAN EXCEPTIONAL!
THANK YOU, FRIENDS, THANK YOU!
HOORAY FOR MR. TAWNY!
HE'S THE GREATEST!
HOORAY!
AHH, ME! IF IT WERE ONLY TRUE!
N-988
MR. TAWNY'S FIGHT FOR FAME
WE ALL HAVE DISGRUNTLED MOODS AT TIMES, AND MR TAWNY IS NO EXCEPTION!
HERE, FOLKS, YOU SEE WILD ANIMALS IN THEIR NATURAL HABITATS!
DAY AFTER DAY I CONDUCT THESE MUSEUM TOURS! I KNOW MY SPIEL BY HEART! I'VE GIVEN IT 999 TIMES!
TIME AFTER TIME I PLOD MY WEARY WAY HOME TO MY QUIET COTTAGE AND UNLOCK THE DOOR!

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I SCRIBBLE AWAY IN MY STUDY, WRITING THIS DRY OLD BOOK! I LIVE IN OBSCURITY, LIKE A HERMIT! NOBODY EVER HEARS OF ME!
DO CROWDS CHEER ME? NO! DOES MY NAME EVER MAKE THE HEADLINES? NO! DO I EVER WIN AN OSCAR? NO! AM I IN THE HALL OF FAME? NO! THIS CAN'T GO ON! I'M GETTING NOWHERE IN LIFE! I'VE GOT TO MAKE A CHANGE!
I WANT FAME!
HOLY MOLEY! WHAT'S WRONG, MR TAWNY?
BILLY BATSON, BOY NEWSCASTER OF STATION WHIZ, OFTEN VISITS HIS OLD FRIEND!
BILLY! MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME! I WANT PEOPLE TO ADMIRE ME AND LOOK UP TO ME! HOW CAN I ACHIEVE EVER-LASTING FAME?
FAME? WHY THAT COMES FROM DOING BIG AND IM-PORTANT TH NGS!
HERE'S WHAT I MEAN! SEE
HMMM SO THAT'S HOW YOU ACHIEVE FAME EH?
-DAILY-
SHIPWRECK McKELLAR BREAKS FLAGPOLE RECORD
SCIENTIST FINISHES 20 YEAR RESEARCH ACCLAIMED BY FELLOWS
I HOPE I HELPED MR TAWNY! THAT SCIENTIST DEVOTED TWENTY YEARS OF HIS LIFE TO RESEARCH! HIS FAME WILL LAST FAR INTO THE FUTURE FOR THAT GREAT TASK, ADVANCING C VILIZATION!
BUT BILLY DOES NOT KNOW THAT MR. TAWNY IS THINKING OF THE OTHER HEADLINE!
FLAGPOLE S T NG EH? PHOOEY, THAT'S TOO TAME. LET ME THINK- THERE MUST BE MORE TERRIFIC FEATS I CAN DO THAT WILL BRING ME UNDYING FAME!
THE NEXT DAY, AT STATION WHIZ...
HERE'S A SPECIAL FLASH, FOLKS! MR TAWKY TAWNY ANNOUNCES THAT TODAY, AT NOON, HE WILL GO OVER HIGHSTONE FALLS WITHOUT A BARREL!

MR. TAWNY'S FIGHT FOR FAME

HOLY MOLEY! IS MR. TAWNY CRAZY? WHY WOULD HE DO SUCH A DANGEROUS STUNT? I'D BETTER HURRY OVER THERE AND SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
MEANWHILE, AT HIGHSTONE FALLS.
ATTENTION, FOLKS! ANYBODY CAN GO OVER THE FALLS WITH A BARREL! THAT'S OLD STUFF! I'M GOING OVER WITHOUT A BARREL!
GOSH! WHAT COURAGE!
ROARRR
MR. TAWNY! STOP! YOU'LL BE KILLED! HAVE YOU GONE MAD?
MAD? BUT, BILLY, YOU YOURSELF TOLD ME THIS WAS THE WAY TO GAIN FAME--BY DOING BIG THINGS!
BUT NOT CHEAP STUNTS LIKE THIS, MR. TAWNY! I MEANT IMPORTANT THINGS LIKE THAT SCIENTIST
I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING ABOUT A SCIENTIST, BILLY! WELL, IT'S NOON TIME FOR MY DEATH-DEFYING STUNT!
HERE I GO!
YAYYYY!
MURDER! I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM! SHAZAM!
ANSWERING THE MYSTIC ANCIENT NAME, MAGIC LIGHTNING CRASHES DOWN--- CHANGING BILLY INTO HIS OTHER FORM OF...
BOOM!
CAPTAIN MARVEL, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN!
POOR MR TAWNY! AM I TOO LATE? IS HE MANGLED OR DROWNED ALREADY? HE'S GONE OVER THE BRINK!
HOLY MOLEY! HE'S ALL RIGHT!
SPLASH!
13

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

ER . HE WAS DOING ALL RIGHT--UP TILL NOW, THAT IS!
HALP! GLUB!
SPLASH!
YOU PITIFUL FOOL . RISKING YOUR NECK LIKE THAT! SILLY STUNTS LIKE THIS ONLY GET YOU NOTORIETY, NOT FAME!
BUT LISTEN! THEY'RE CHEERING ME! I'M BECOMING FAMOUS ALREADY!
YAYYY! HOORAY FOR MR TAWNY!
BUT, MR. TAWNY! THAT'S ONLY CHEAP HERO WORSHIP! IT WON'T LAST!
TUT TUT, CAPTAIN MARVEL! FAME IS FAME! I'LL WIN MORE CHEERS NOW WITH MY NEXT FEAT!
TAKE ME DOWN TO THAT BOAT, PLEASE!
STEVE BRODY JUMPED OFF A BRIDGE AND BECAME FAMOUS! BUT I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT! DROP THE WEIGHT!
I'M GOING TO JUMP ONTO A BRIDGE! WHEEE!
HOLY MOLEY! OF ALL THE CRACKPOT IDEAS!
WHEEE! I'M AN EAGLE! I'LL LAND ON THE BRIDGE AND---ULPS!
HE OVERSHOT THE BRIDGE!
4

MR. TAWNY'S FIGHT FOR FAME

HALP!
F YOU ASK ME MR. TAWNY, YOU'RE MORE LIKE A DEAD DUCK RIGHT NOW THAN AN EAGLE
ENOUGH! YOU'VE NEARLY KILLED YOURSELF TWICE NOW! THIS ISN'T BRAVERY, IT'S FOOLHARDY SUICIDE! NOW WILL YOU GIVE UP?
BUT MY PUBLIC, CAPTAIN MARVEL! I CAN'T DISAPPOINT THEM! THEY WANT MORE!
YAYY! HOORAY! WEEE!
AND SOON
GETTING SHOT OUT OF A CANNON IS OLD STUFF, FOLKS, I KNOW! BUT I, DAREDEVIL TAWNY, WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU
BOING!
HERE I GO!
HOLY MOLEY! HE'S BEING SHOT INTO ANOTHER CANNON! BUT IF HE MISSES
BULL'S-EYE! THOUGHT I'D MISS, DIDN'T YOU, CAPTAIN MARVEL?
OKAY! GUESS I'M NOT NEEDED THIS TIME!
BOING!
OOPS! I FORGOT THIS CANNON HAS A SPRING IN IT TOO!
OUCH!
KIND OF A ROUGH LANDING!
PLOP!

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

BUT I'M A HERO FOR THAT SENSATIONAL DEED! I'VE ACHIEVED FAME! AH, WHAT A GLORIOUS FEELING! I'LL BET THEY'LL PARADE ME AROUND ON THEIR SHOULDERS NOW!
EH? THE CROWD'S DESERTING ME! WHERE ARE THEY GOING?
HEY, LOOK WHAT THAT KID'S DOING!
ATTENTION FOLKS! I'M JUMPING FROM THE WHIZ BUILDING WITHOUT A PARACHUTE! ONLY THESE TOY BALLOONS HOLD ME UP!
YAYYY!
WHAT COURAGE!
BILLY! YOU'RE STEALING MY THUNDER! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?
HOORAY FOR BILLY BATSON!
NOW I UNDERSTAND! WHAT I GOT BEFORE WAS CHEAP NOTORIETY, NOT TRUE FAME! THE FICKLE CROWD HAS ALREADY FORGOTTEN ME
BUT THE NEXT DAY, AT MR TAWNY'S HUMBLE HOME...
I BROUGHT THESE SCIENTISTS OVER TO SEE YOUR MANUSCRIPT MR TAWNY! JUST LISTEN
A WORK OF PATIENT, PLODDING GENIUS! WE'LL PUBLISH IT AND MR TAWNY'S FAME WILL NEVER TARNISH FOR A THOUSAND YEARS!
I SEE IT ALL NOW, BILLY! TRUE FAME COMES FROM DOING IMPORTANT AND WORTHWHILE THINGS! THIS BOOK WAS MY CLAIM TO FAME ALL THE TIME AND I DIDN'T KNOW IT!
RIGHT, MR. TAWNY!
THE END

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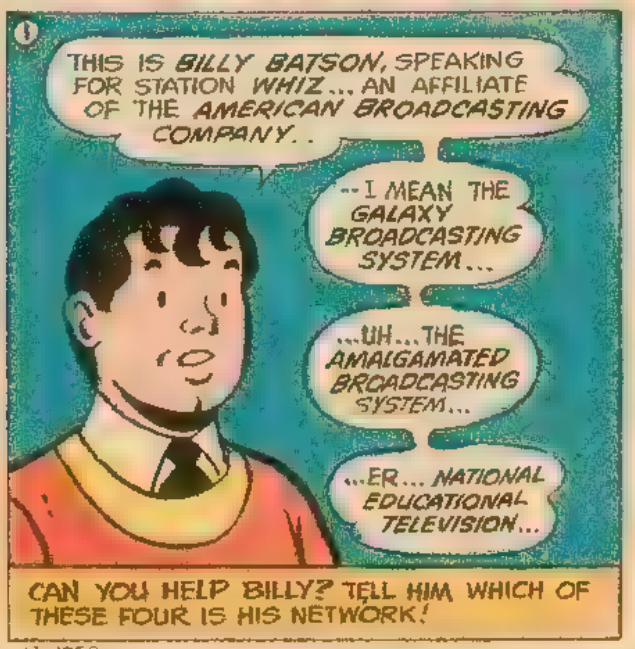
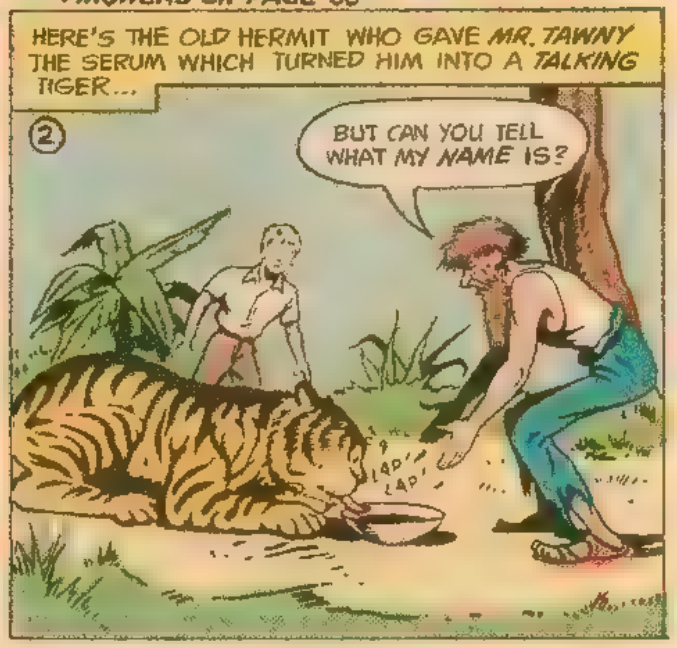
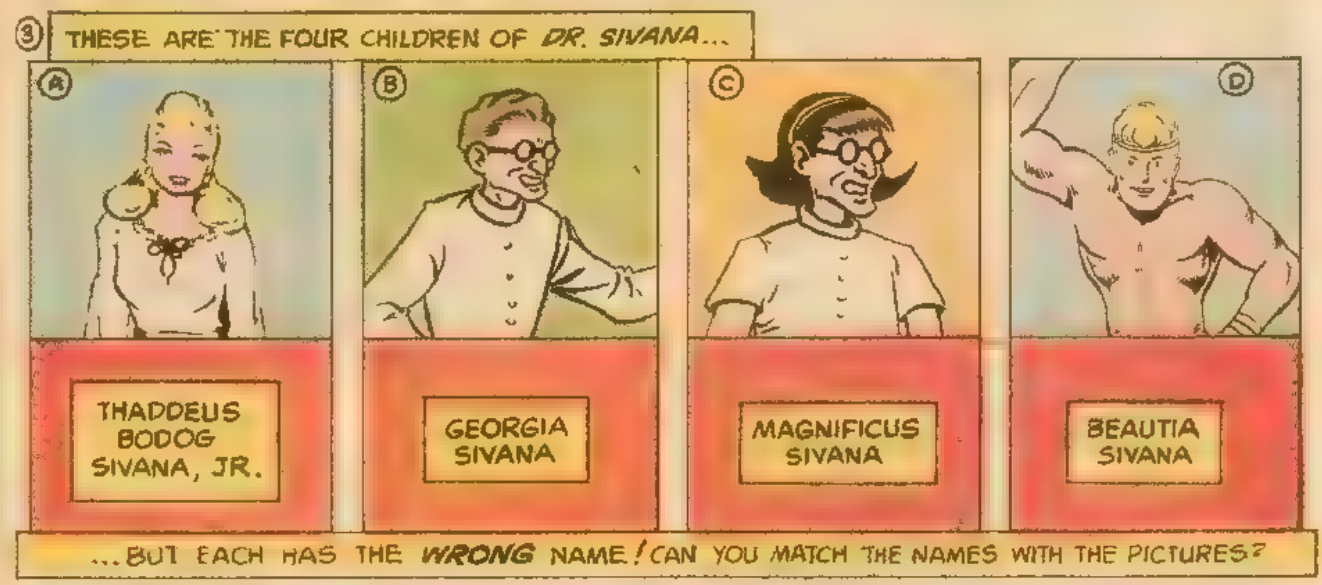
SHAZAM™ TRIVIA QUIZ

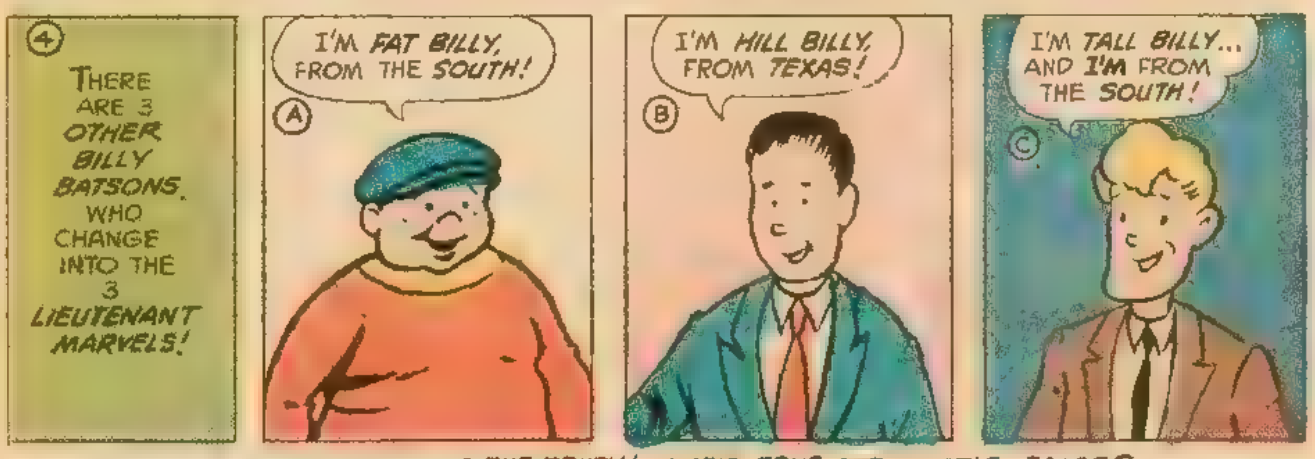
ANSWERS ON PAGE 95


1
THIS IS BILLY BATSON, SPEAKING FOR STATION WHIZ... AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY..
--I MEAN THE GALAXY BROADCASTING SYSTEM...
...UH...THE AMALGAMATED BROADCASTING SYSTEM...
...ER... NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION...
CAN YOU HELP BILLY? TELL HIM WHICH OF THESE FOUR IS HIS NETWORK!


HERE'S THE OLD HERMIT WHO GAVE MR. TAWNY THE SERUM WHICH TURNED HIM INTO A TALKING TIGER...
2
BUT CAN YOU TELL WHAT MY NAME IS?
LAP! LAP!

N-1058




4
THERE ARE 3 OTHER BILLY BATSONS, WHO CHANGE INTO THE 3 LIEUTENANT MARVELS!
I'M FAT BILLY, FROM THE SOUTH!
A
I'M HILL BILLY, FROM TEXAS!
B
I'M TALL BILLY... AND I'M FROM THE SOUTH!
C

EACH IS TELLING HALF THE TRUTH! WHAT'S TRUE AND WHAT'S FALSE?

LEGENDS OF SHAZAM!

S-1792

1. SOLOMON

Old **Shazam** gave to **Captain Marvel** the powers of six mighty beings. Three were gods of the Greeks and Romans; two were Greek heroes; while the other was a Hebrew king. In this series we will tell the stories of those six, and show how each used the power he has bequeathed to the **World's Mightiest Mortal!**

Solomon was the son of **King David** of Israel **David** named his son **Shelomoh**, meaning "peaceful"; but today we know it better in the form **Solomon**

Solomon's story is told in two books of the **Bible**: the **First Book of Kings** and the **Second Book of Chronicles.**

One of the best ways to make peace with other nations in those days (the tenth century B.C.) was to marry into the ruler's family. **Solomon** used this policy immediately after becoming king, taking as his queen a daughter of the Pharaoh of Egypt

Then the young king went to Gibeon, where he sacrificed to **God**. Soon after, he slept, and in a dream, the **Lord spoke to him** "**Ask what I shall give thee.**" **Solomon** replied, "Give thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad"

Then **God** said, "Because thou hast asked this thing, lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches and honor"

So **Solomon** received his great wisdom—and he soon had an opportunity to demonstrate it publicly. Two women who lived in the same house came before him. One claimed the other's baby had died and that the woman had then switched babies with her as she slept, leaving her dead child in the place of the first woman's living one. The king called for a sword, that he might cut the child in two, dividing it between the two claimants The woman who was not the child's mother agreed to this, but the real mother said, "Give her the child, and by no means slay it." Seeing in this the natural love of a true mother, **Solomon** awarded the child to her

Solomon is credited with the authorship of three books of the **Bible**: **Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.** Two of the **Psalms** also bear his name—the 72nd and 127th.

It was **Solomon** who built the great temple to **God** in Jerusalem. After seven years, when the temple was finished, **Solomon** built a palace for himself, so magnificent that it took thirteen years to construct!

The **Queen of Sheba** (Saba, in southern Arabia) heard of **Solomon's** fame and came to Jerusalem to test his wisdom with questions. She brought with her a great camel train laden with rich spices, gold and precious stones. Many legends have grown up about this visit One says that **Solomon** received her in a room inlaid with glass so cunningly that she thought he was sitting on water! Just what questions she asked we do not know, though many riddles have been ascribed to the queen. One says, "There is something which, when living moves not; yet when its head is cut off, it moves." The answer—a ship on the sea, which does not move when it is a tree, but when cut down and made into a vessel, sails to many lands. Before returning home, she told him she had not believed the stories about him "until I came and mine eyes had seen it, and, behold, the half was not told me"

It appears that **Solomon**, for all his wisdom, had one weakness—women He married 700, from many countries, all of them princesses Since they were pagans, he built altars for their gods, and began to worship them. The **Lord God** therefore spoke to **Solomon**, telling him that as punishment, his son would lose a large part of his kingdom.This came true; for after **Solomon's** death, the country split into two separate nations

After his death, his legend grew. In real life, he had ruled the Hebrew nation when it reached its greatest extent Legend made him the ruler of the entire world! And not only men were his subjects He could speak the language of animals, and judge their quarrels as well as those of men He was said to have had a magic ring containing four jewels given him by four angels, who appeared in the forms of an eagle, a lion, a whale and a serpent These stones gave him dominion over spirits, animals, wind and water. Once **Asmodeus,** the **Prince of Demons**, stole **Solomon's** ring, and, making himself look like the king, ruled in his place for three years. But the demon lost the ring, and **Solomon** found it in the belly of a fish which had swallowed it; so he banished **Asmodeus** and regained the throne

According to another tradition, **Solomon** had a tapestry 60 miles square, on which he could ride swiftly through the air—making it the biggest magic carpet of all time!

How **Solomon** dealt with rebellious spirits is told in the **Arabian Nights** tales of **The Fisherman and the Jinni.** A fisherman finds a bottle made of yellow copper (or brass), sealed with lead. He opens it and an enormous jinni (or genie) emerges This being tells how he was one of the jinn who revolted against **Solomon** along with **Sakhr the Jinni** (the Moslem version of **Asmodeus**) **Solomon** imprisoned him in the bottle and had the good jinni cast it into the sea.

Captain Marvel has many great powers—but none of them would be of any use without the wisdom of **Solomon** to tell him how to handle them properly. And if the **World's Mightiest Mortal** sometimes gets flustered in the presence of pretty girls, and seems temporarily to lose his wisdom—well, **Solomon** had his weakness, too!

Next issue—the story of **Hercules** and his mighty strength!

BESIDES BEING *BILLY BATSON'S* SISTER, I'M THE ADOPTED DAUGHTER OF THE WEALTHY *MRS. BROMFIELD!* SO I CAN AFFORD TO BUY *RARE BOOKS!* UNFORTUNATELY I ONCE BOUGHT SOME WITH A *CURSE* ON THEM!

IMAGINE *BLUEBEARD* STEPPING RIGHT OUT OF A BOOK OF *FAIRY TALES*... OR THE *BLACK KNIGHT* POPPING FROM A BOOK ABOUT *KING ARTHUR'S ROUND TABLE!* HERE'S HOW IT HAPPENED...

MARY MARVEL

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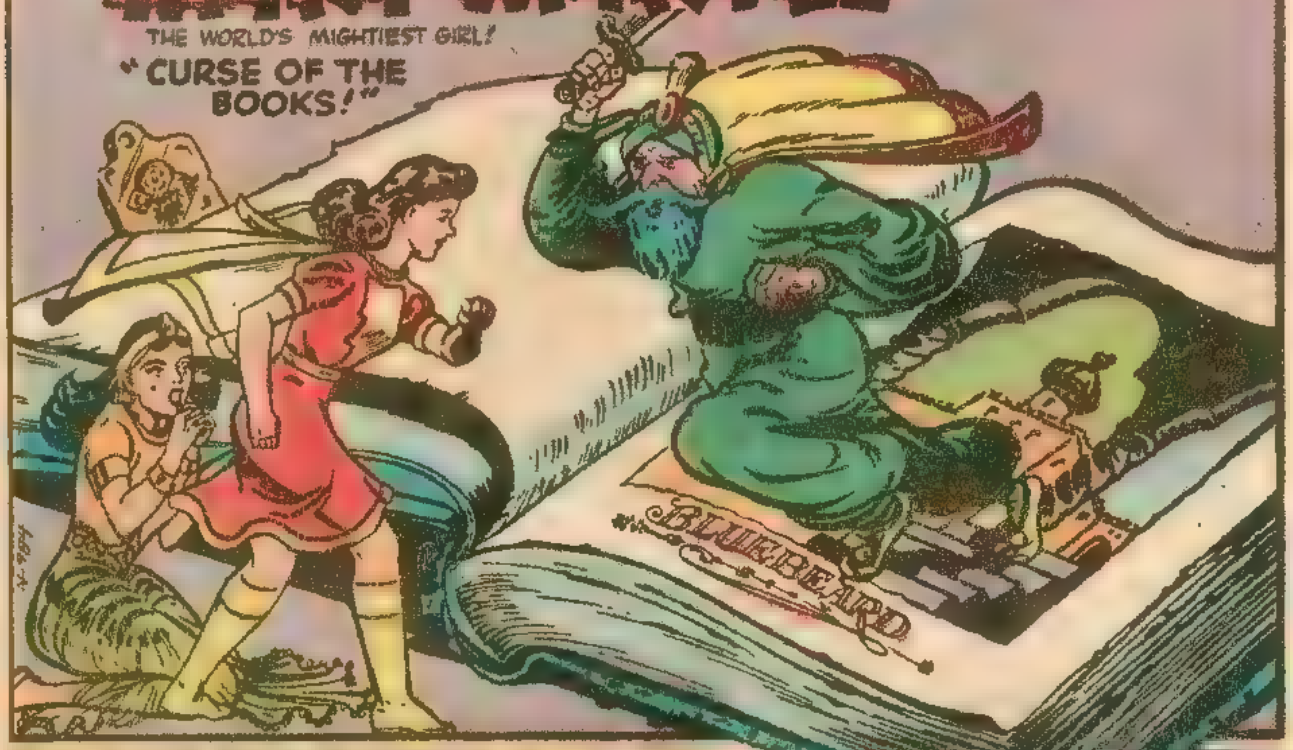
ART: JACK BINDER

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST GIRL!

"CURSE OF THE BOOKS!"



MARY BATSON'S FOSTER-MOTHER TAKES HER OUT ONE DAY.

COME ALONG MARY THERE'S AN AUCTION SALE OF RARE OLD BOOKS TODAY. WE'LL TRY TO PICK UP A FEW FOR YOU

GOSH MOTHER THAT'S SWELL.

GOING... GONE... GONE! THE FIRST EDITION OF CHARLES DICKENS' **OLIVER TWIST** TO THE LADY FOR $500!

BOOKS

AUCTION! RARE OLD BOOKS FIRST EDITIONS!

AUCTIONEER - ARTHUR ARCHER

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THE COLLECTOR OF THESE RARE BOOKS HATES TO PART WITH THEM, BUT HE NEEDS THE MONEY! NOW HERE IS THE PRIZE PIECE FOR TODAY -- THE 1729 EDITION OF CHARLES PERRAULT'S FAIRY TALES!

I BID $5,000.

BUT I BID $6,000!

$6,000! DO I HEAR ANY MORE? GOING -- GOING...!

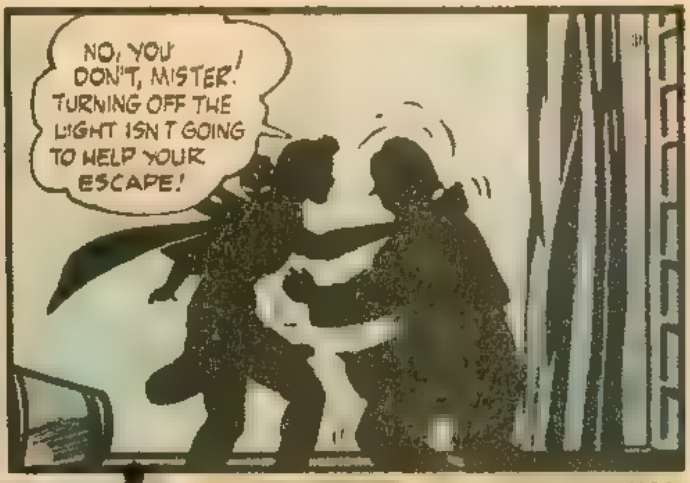
SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

--GONE! HERE YOU ARE, S R!
STOP! IT'S UNFAIR! I WANTED THAT BOOK. I HAD MY HEART SET ON IT--- BUT I COULDN'T BID ANY HIGHER!
DO YOU KNOW THAT BOOK HAS A CURSE ON IT? BAD LUCK HAPPENS TO ITS OWNER! THE FORMER OWNER WENT BROKE! YOU MAY--DIE!
WHA---? G-GULP!
BLUEBEARD
DON'T MIND HIM, S R! HE'S JOSHUA JOAD, A CRANK! HE'S ALWAYS SAYING CRAZY THINGS LIKE THAT! HE WANTS THE BOOK HIMSELF!
BUT IT HAS A CURSE ON IT, I TELL YOU! SOMETHING MAY HAPPEN TO YOU-- TONIGHT!
BAH!
LATER, AFTER A FEW PURCHASES, MARY AND HER MOTHER LEAVE...
"THANKS FOR BUYING ME THESE BOOKS, MOTHER! I--- ..MOTHER! LOOK--- A WALLET!
THE NAME AND ADDRESS INSIDE SAYS---MR. JOHN ELSON, 77 ELM ST. WHY, THAT'S THE GENTLEMAN WHO BOUGHT THE PERRAULT BOOK!
I'LL TAKE THE BOOKS HOME. YOU RETURN HIS WALLET, MARY.
MEANWHILE DARKNESS FALLS AND AT THE APARTMENT OF JOHN ELSON....
THAT CRANK GAVE ME A SCARE, SAYING THIS BOOK IS-- ER-- CURSED! BUT THAT'S SILLY! NOTHING CAN HAPPEN TO ME. I'LL READ THE STORY OF BLUEBEARD!
BLUEBEARD HAD A HEART HARDER THAN THE HARDEST ROCK! YOU MUST DIE MADAM, SAID HE AND THAT PRESENTLY

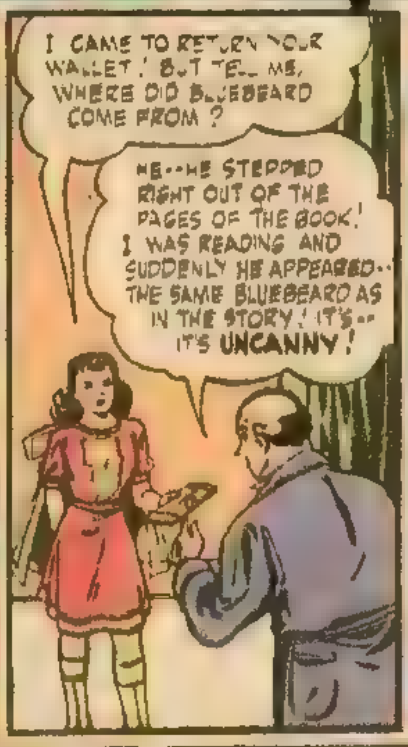
CURSE OF THE BOOKS

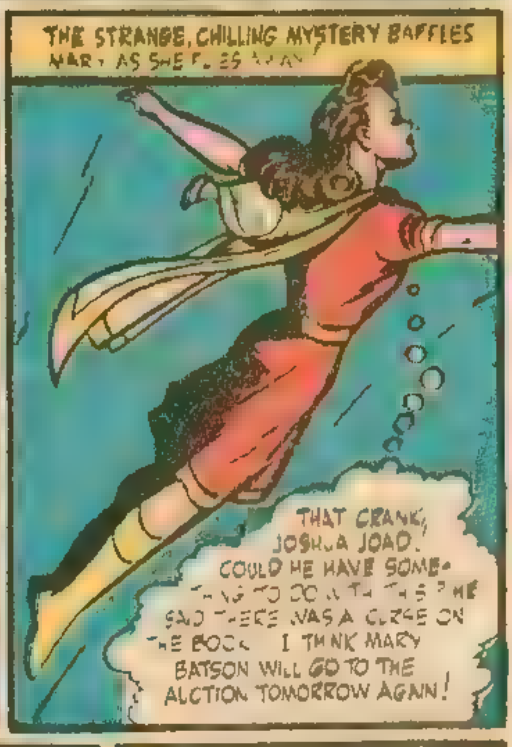
WHAT A HORRIBLE TALE! IT SENDS SHIVERS DOWN MY SPINE! I--I ALMOST FEEL AS IF THAT TERRIBLE BLUEBEARD WAS STANDING BEHIND ME, READY TO CHOKE ME TOO!
EEK! WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU COME IN?
I-- AM-- BLUEBEARD! I HAVE STEPPED OUT OF THE PAGES OF THE BOOK! AND NOW, FOOLISH MORTAL, YOU M-- DIE--- DIE--!
GASP! HELP!
NOW TO RETURN ELSON'S WALLET -- A CRY FOR HELP! I'D BETTER SAY... SHAZAM!
HELP!
HE---GGG!
MARY BATSON NEEDS ONLY TO PRONOUNCE THAT MYSTIC WORD TO BRING DOWN MAGIC LIGHTNING WHICH INSTANTLY CHANGES HER INTO THE MIGHTIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD------ MARY MARVEL!
HO, HO HO!
GOOD HEAVENS! STOP!
UGH. WHO IS THIS?
MARY MARVEL, FOR YOUR INFORMATION!
ZOUNDS! I'LL SPLIT YOUR HEAD, SILLY GIRL!
WHAM!
BUT THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST GIRL IS INVULNERABLE TO PHYSICAL HARM!
3

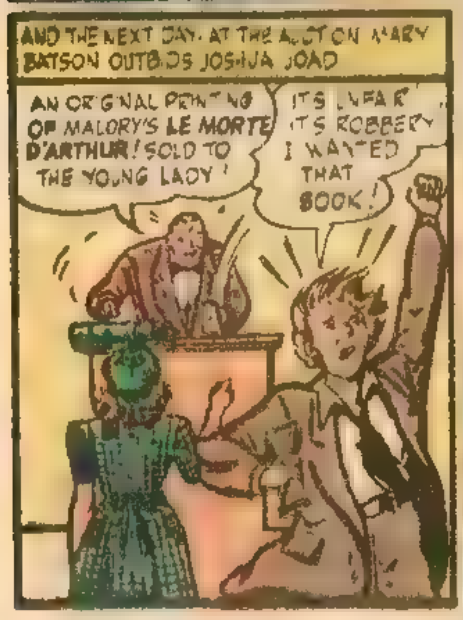
SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

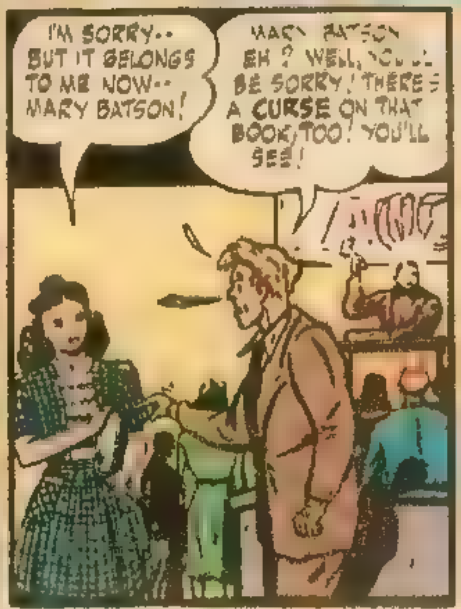


BUT WHEN THE LIGHT GOES ON
IT'S ME YOU'VE GOT...ELSON! AND BLUEBEARD IS GONE WITH THE BOOK!
GEE I'M SORRY MR. ELSON! BUT DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GET MR. BLUEBEARD OR WHOEVER HE IS!


I CAME TO RETURN YOUR WALLET! BUT TELL ME, WHERE DID BLUEBEARD COME FROM?
HE--HE STEPPED RIGHT OUT OF THE PAGES OF THE BOOK! I WAS READING AND SUDDENLY HE APPEARED.. THE SAME BLUEBEARD AS IN THE STORY! IT'S-- IT'S UNCANNY!


THE STRANGE, CHILLING MYSTERY BAFFLES MARY AS SHE FLEES AWAY
THAT CRANK, JOSHUA JOAD. COULD HE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS? HE SAID THERE WAS A CURSE ON THE BOOK. I THINK MARY BATSON WILL GO TO THE AUCTION TOMORROW AGAIN!


AND THE NEXT DAY, AT THE AUCTION MARY BATSON OUTBIDS JOSHUA JOAD
AN ORIGINAL PRINTING OF MALORY'S LE MORTE D'ARTHUR! SOLD TO THE YOUNG LADY!
IT'S UNFAIR! IT'S ROBBERY! I WANTED THAT BOOK!



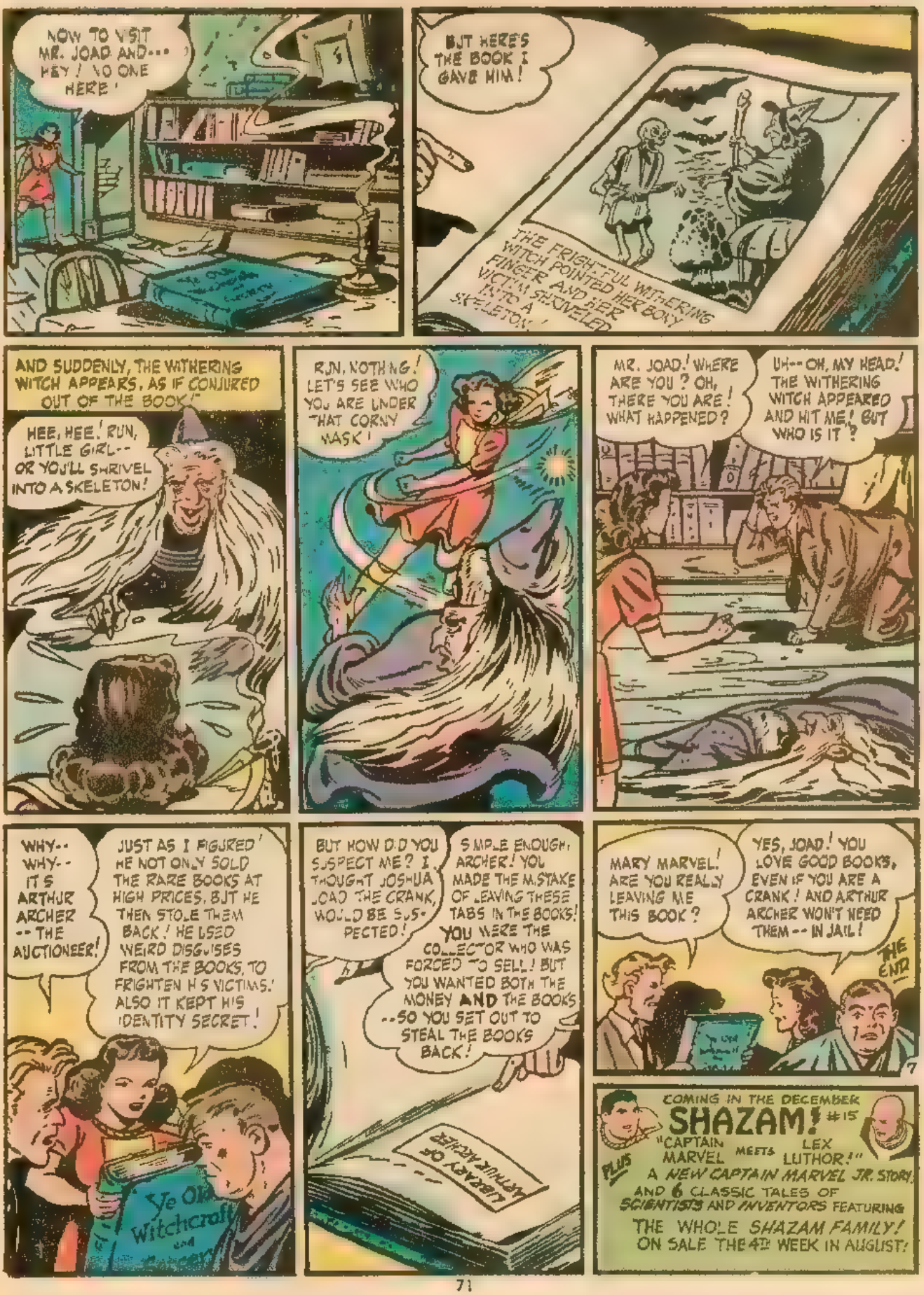
CURSE OF THE BOOKS

THAT EVENING, MARY READS.....
"THE BLACK KNIGHT DREW HIS SWORD, AND SMOTE MANY EAGER STROKES, AND OF GREAT MIGHT, AND HURT BEAUMAINS FULL SORE!"
GOSH WHAT A HORRIBLE KILLER THAT BLACK KNIGHT WAS!
AND SUDDENLY, A TERRIBLE FIGURE APPEARS!
HO HO THOU SHALT HAVE A TASTE OF THE BLACK KNIGHT'S SWORD
GASP SHAZAM!
BOOM!
AGGH FORGOT-- I BLINDED!
BEHOLD ANOTHER CHT? HENCE, TH 3!
REALLY?
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST GIRL TAKES THE BLOW.
YOU SOUND LIKE A BUNCH OF DISHPANS!
BANG!
CLANG!
CLATTER!
SOUNDS. I NEED HELP! MERLIN--- I COMMAND YOU! COME FORTH FROM THE BOOK MERLIN, AND CAST A SPELL OVER THIS GIRL!
THE BLACK KNIGHT UTTERS STRANGE WORDS!
AND MERLIN IS THERE-- RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
THAT SHADOW CAN'T BE--!
IT'S ONLY THE SHADOW OF OUR STATUE!

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

TRICKED, LIKE A BABY! THE BLACK KNIGHT IS GONE --- AND THE BOOK, TOO!
TWO WEIRD APPARITIONS HAVE APPEARED --- AND TWO VALUABLE BOOKS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THEIR RIGHTFUL OWNERS. BUT SAY, I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING! MAGIC-- BAH! NOW I KNOW WHO THE CULPRIT IS! MARY BATSON CAN TRAP HIM TOMORROW AT THE AUCTION..
NEXT DAY, AT THE AUCTION . . . .
AGAIN THE YOUNG LADY HAS OUTBID YOU, JOSHUA JOAD!
MY BOOK! IT SHOULD BE MINE, I TELL YOU!
Ye Olde Witchcraft and Sorcery
ALL RIGHT, THEN --- TAKE IT! IT'S A PRESENT FROM ME!
HUH? WHY-- ER-- DO YOU MEAN IT?
YES! BUT AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF THE CURSE ON THIS BOOK?
WHY-- ER-- YOU SEE, THERE'S NO CURSE ON THIS BOOK! OH, BOY, I'LL TAKE IT, HOME!
Ye Old Witchcraft and Sorcery
AND I'LL FOLLOW YOU, MR. JOSHUA JOAD! I'M INTERESTED TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A CURSE ON THAT BOOK!
THERE HE GOES, INTO THAT OLD HOUSE! NOW'S THE TIME TO SAY...
SHAZAM!
ONCE AGAIN, MAGIC LIGHTNING BRINGS THE SHAZAM GIRL, MARY MARVEL.
6

CURSE OF THE BOOKS


NOW TO VISIT MR. JOAD AND... HEY! NO ONE HERE!
BUT HERE'S THE BOOK I GAVE HIM!
THE FRIGHTFUL WITHERING WITCH POINTED HER BONY FINGER AND HER VICTIM SHRIVELED INTO A SKELETON!
AND SUDDENLY, THE WITHERING WITCH APPEARS, AS IF CONJURED OUT OF THE BOOK!
HEE, HEE! RUN, LITTLE GIRL-- OR YOU'LL SHRIVEL INTO A SKELETON!
RUN, NOTHING! LET'S SEE WHO YOU ARE UNDER THAT CORNY MASK!
MR. JOAD! WHERE ARE YOU? OH, THERE YOU ARE! WHAT HAPPENED?
UH-- OH, MY HEAD! THE WITHERING WITCH APPEARED AND HIT ME! BUT WHO IS IT?
WHY-- WHY-- IT'S ARTHUR ARCHER -- THE AUCTIONEER!
JUST AS I FIGURED! HE NOT ONLY SOLD THE RARE BOOKS AT HIGH PRICES, BUT HE THEN STOLE THEM BACK! HE USED WEIRD DISGUISES FROM THE BOOKS, TO FRIGHTEN HIS VICTIMS! ALSO IT KEPT HIS IDENTITY SECRET!
Ye Olde Witchcraft and Sorcery
BUT HOW DID YOU SUSPECT ME? I THOUGHT JOSHUA JOAD THE CRANK, WOULD BE SUSPECTED!
SIMPLE ENOUGH, ARCHER! YOU MADE THE MISTAKE OF LEAVING THESE TABS IN THE BOOKS! YOU WERE THE COLLECTOR WHO WAS FORCED TO SELL! BUT YOU WANTED BOTH THE MONEY AND THE BOOKS --SO YOU SET OUT TO STEAL THE BOOKS BACK!
LIBRARY OF ARTHUR ARCHER
MARY MARVEL! ARE YOU REALLY LEAVING ME THIS BOOK?
YES, JOAD! YOU LOVE GOOD BOOKS, EVEN IF YOU ARE A CRANK! AND ARTHUR ARCHER WON'T NEED THEM -- IN JAIL!
THE END
7
COMING IN THE DECEMBER
SHAZAM! #15
"CAPTAIN MARVEL MEETS LEX LUTHOR!"
PLUS
A NEW CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. STORY,
AND 6 CLASSIC TALES OF SCIENTISTS AND INVENTORS FEATURING
THE WHOLE SHAZAM FAMILY!
ON SALE THE 4TH WEEK IN AUGUST!

SHAZAMAIL!

S-1788

Dear Editor, Artists and Writers:

Shazam #12 was a very good issue. I especially liked the first of the new stories, "The Golden Plague!" I also enjoyed the new **Captain Marvel Jr.** story, "The Longest Block in the World!" I wonder who **Dr. Kassover** was supposed to be?

The reprint of the **Sivana Family-Marvel Family** clash was a good choice. With that story, "The Golden Plague," and past stories dealing with time-travel, I see that time will be an often-used premise.

The other new story, "Mighty Master of the Martial Arts," was not, in my opinion, as good as the other two.

At this time, I would like to comment on the raise in price. Knowing that the price of everything is going up, I can't complain—since you have gone to every other month with the super-spectacular format. But there is another comix group which has raised its price by a nickel without even adding extra pages. Keeping this in mind, I think what you have done, though expensive, is more or less fair.

James Burns, Valley Stream, N.Y.

(Yes, despite the use of time-travel in our stories—this issue's "Man Who Lived History," for instance—we can't turn back time to the yesteryear when things were all LOW-PRICED!—E.N.B.)

• • • • •

Dear Editor.

My name is **Billy Batson**, and I think that **Shazam** is one of the greatest comics in the world. There is only one bad thing—when I say **Shazam**, I do not turn into **Captain Marvel.**

In the barber shop, everyone used to call me **Captain Marvel**, and I didn't understand. But then I found out about **Shazam**, and now I love **Captain Marvel**.

Billy Batson, Nyack, N.Y.

(We'd heard of two real CAPTAIN MARVELS—and now we have a genuine BILLY BATSON. Any SIVANAS out there?—E.N.B.)

• • • • •

Dear Shazammers

It is one thing to read about stories. It is another thing entirely to read the stories themselves.

This is the reason **Shazam** ought to jump in sales now that it is a **100-Pager**. Many people (including myself) who have never read any **Marvel Family** magazines found quite a bit of excitement generating from essays like Dick Lupoff's "The Big Red Cheese," in **All in Color for a Dime**. It was unfair, however, because it heated one up in a riot of anxiety, only to tell him that there was little hope of ever seeing **Cap** or any of his great stories again.

Well, we all know what happened not long after!

Shazam #12 was the dream of all reprint-lovers. The **Marvel Family** versus the **Sivana Family**! All together! In one big, long tale! In one issue!

To say anything more would really be unnecessary. This magazine means something different to everybody. It may be personal nostalgia, pure fun, escapist adventure, Americana, graphic history, etc. I found it enjoyable. And that is the key to a magazine like **Shazam**, isn't it?

Next issue is the thirteenth. But after seeing the **Marvel Family** beat some witches in #3, I can buy it without any doubt that the **Marvels** will be happily undaunted. May they always be.

Bob Rodi, Oak Brook, Ill.

(They got by the thirteenth issue all right, anyway. And here's #14 to prove it!—E.N.B.)

• • • • •

Dear Editor.

I just finished **Shazam #12**. "The Golden Plague" was good, but rather short. Of the first four stories, "The Longest Block in the World" was the best. The **Sivana Family-Marvel Family** story was by far the best in the issue. But the last story, "Mighty Master of the Martial Arts," ran a close second. This was not only the best **Shazam** issue I've ever read, it's the best comic mag I've ever read—period (or rather exclamation point)!

Richard Schneider, Pullman, Wash.

(If it was really that good, we'll find a hard time topping it. But we intend to try!—E.N.B.)

• • • • •

Here are the sources of this issue's reprints: "The Prophetic Book"—**Captain Marvel Adventures #57**; March 29, 1946. "The Man Who Lived History"—**Captain Marvel Jr. #83**; March, 1950. "Mr. Tawny's Fight for Fame"—**CMA #126**, Nov., 1951. "Curse of the Books"—**Mary Marvel #2**; June, 1946. "The Magic Mix-up"—**CMA #102**; Nov., 1949. "The Word Wrecker"—**Marvel Family #86**; Aug., 1951.

• • • • •

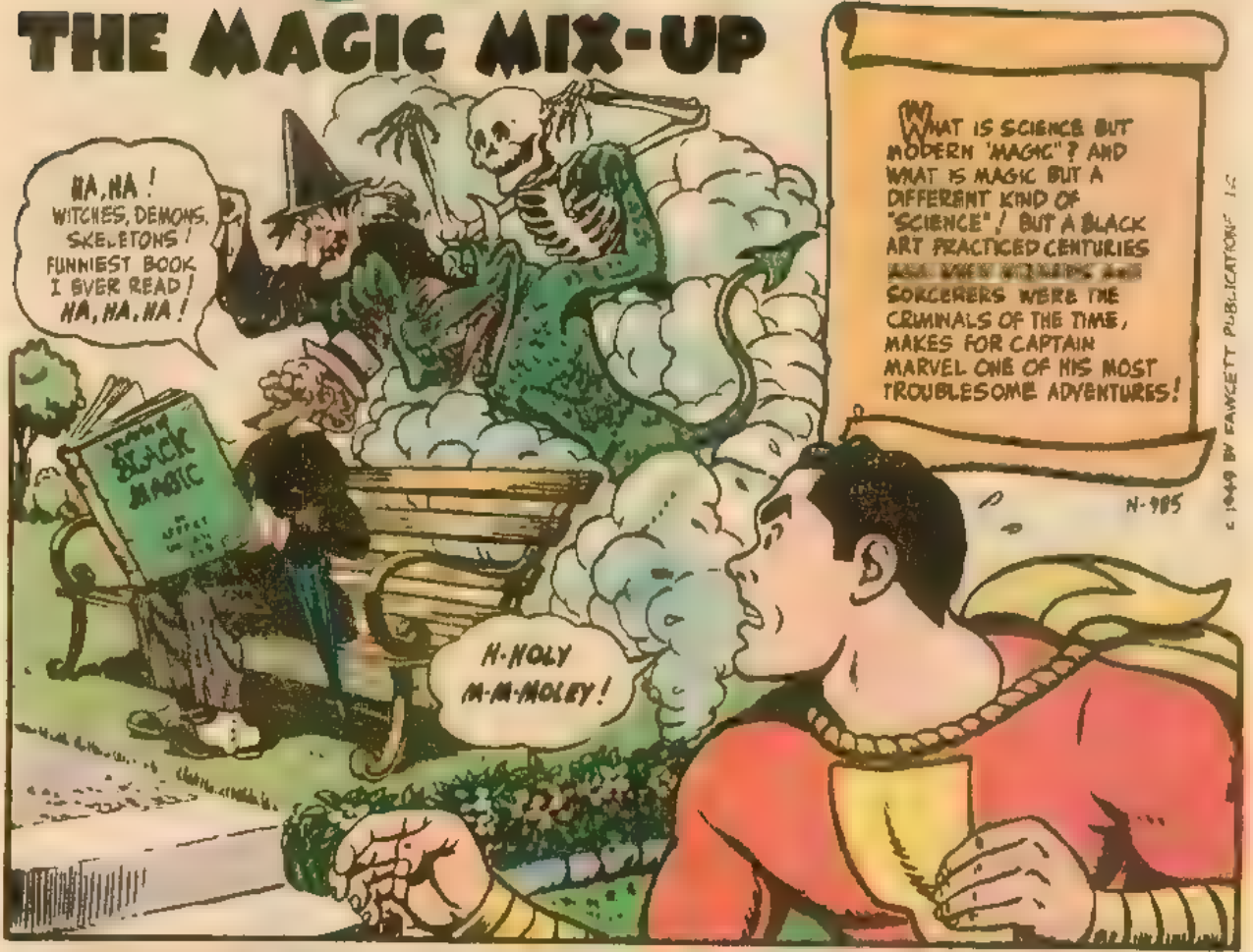
Write to us in care of **SHAZAMAIL**, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019.

OF COURSE YOU KNEW THAT WITCH IN MARY'S STORY WAS A FAKE ALL BOOKS OF SORCERY AND MAGIC ARE FAKES, AREN'T THEY ?
WELL, THAT'S WHAT PROFESSOR TWEEDLE THOUGHT. BUT HE SURE GAVE ME A DAY FILLED WITH NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!

SHAZAM!™

ART BY. C. C. BECK & PETE COSTANZA

THE MAGIC MIX-UP


HA, HA! WITCHES, DEMONS, SKELETONS! FUNNIEST BOOK I EVER READ! HA, HA, HA!
BLACK MAGIC
H-HOLY M-M-MOLEY!
WHAT IS SCIENCE BUT MODERN "MAGIC"? AND WHAT IS MAGIC BUT A DIFFERENT KIND OF "SCIENCE"! BUT A BLACK ART PRACTICED CENTURIES AGO WHEN WIZARDS AND SORCERERS WERE THE CRIMINALS OF THE TIME, MAKES FOR CAPTAIN MARVEL ONE OF HIS MOST TROUBLESOME ADVENTURES!
N-985
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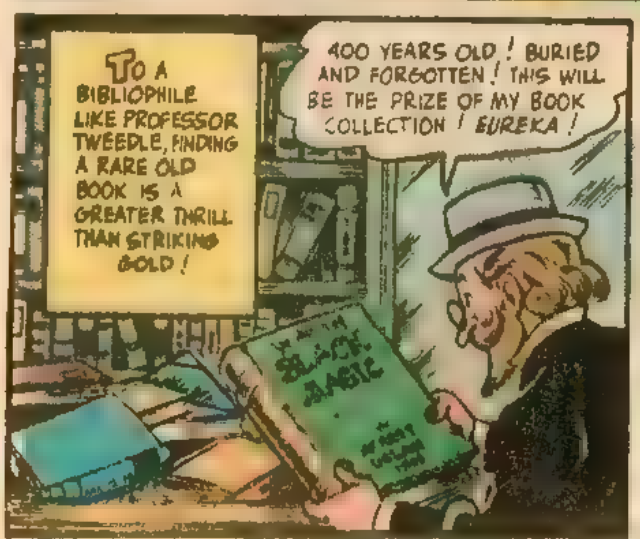
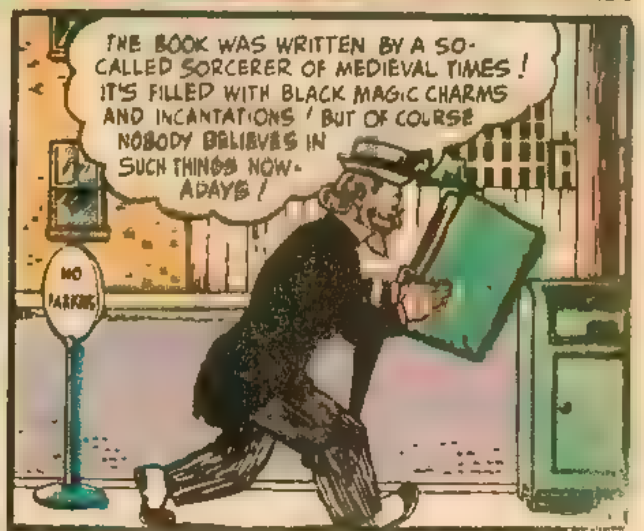
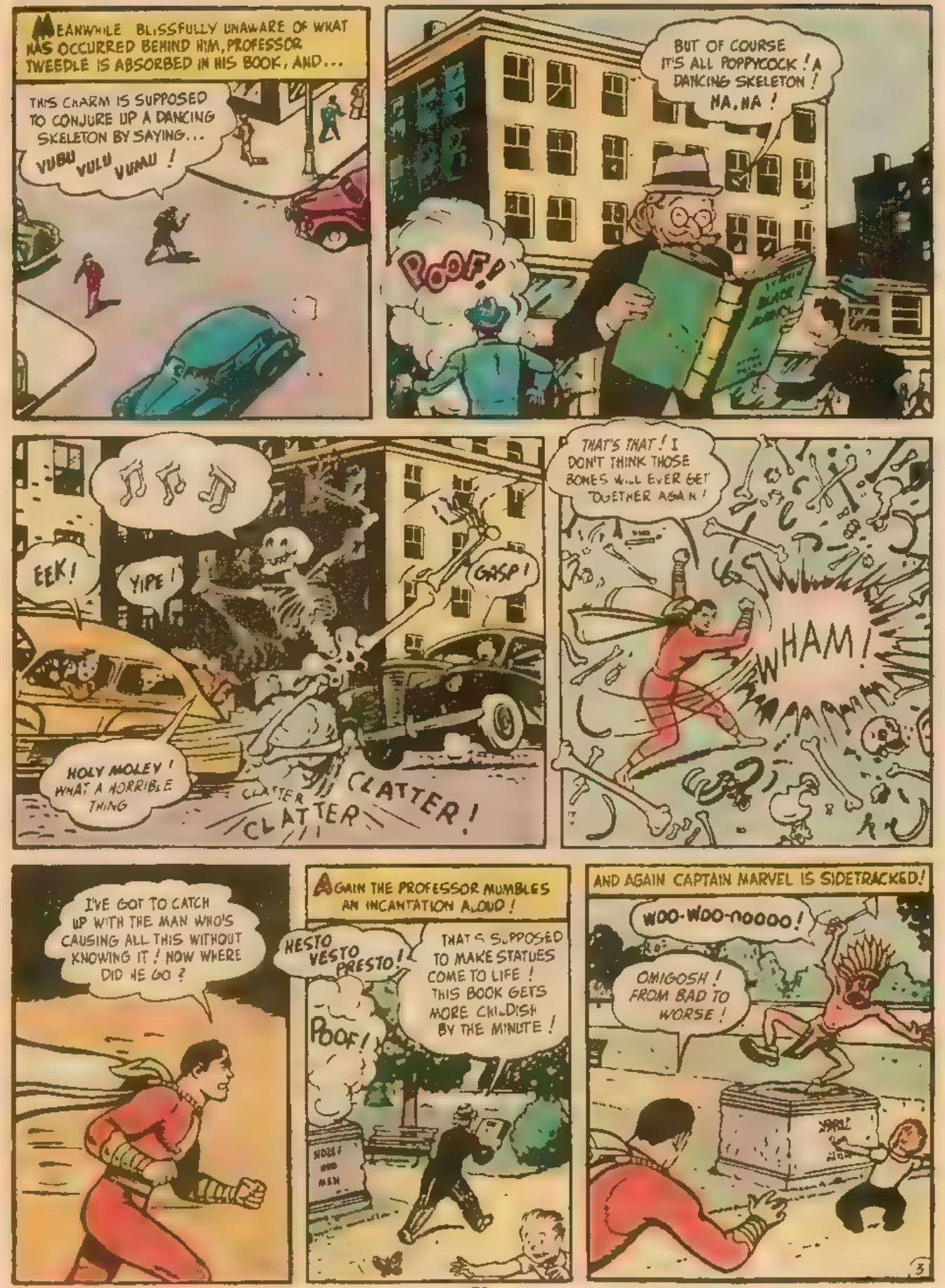

TO A BIBLIOPHILE LIKE PROFESSOR TWEEDLE, FINDING A RARE OLD BOOK IS A GREATER THRILL THAN STRIKING GOLD!
400 YEARS OLD! BURIED AND FORGOTTEN! THIS WILL BE THE PRIZE OF MY BOOK COLLECTION! EUREKA!
BLACK MAGIC


THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN BY A SO-CALLED SORCERER OF MEDIEVAL TIMES! IT'S FILLED WITH BLACK MAGIC CHARMS AND INCANTATIONS! BUT OF COURSE NOBODY BELIEVES IN SUCH THINGS NOWADAYS!
NO PARKING

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

FOR INSTANCE, THIS SILLY CHARM ! I'M NOT AFRAID TO SAY IT ALOUD ! AKKA DAKKA YAKKA !
BLACK MAGIC CHARM II AKKA DAKKA YAKKA!
Hark ye! When this charm is uttered aloud, there will appear out of smoke a frightful demon with horns and claws, breathing fire and
POP!
?
AND THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO CONJURE UP A DEMON ! RIDICULOUS ! HA, HA !
GRRRR !
HOLY MOLEY ! WHERE DID THAT HORRIBLE MONSTROSITY POP UP FROM ? SHAZAM !
PASSING BY IS BILLY BATSON OF STATION WHIZ, AND HE SPEAKS HIS OWN MAGIC WORD WHICH BRINGS MAGIC LIGHTNING AND MIGHTY CAPTAIN MARVEL !
BOOM
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL BATTLES THE DEMON !
YOW
THIS REFUGEE FROM A NIGHTMARE RATES MY ATOMIC PUNCH !
WHAM!
BATTERED RELENTLESSLY BY CAPTAIN MARVEL, THERE IS ONLY ONE "ESCAPE" FOR THE NETHER WORLD CREATURE !
HOLY MOLEY ! HE VANISHED IN A PUFF OF SMOKE, LIKE MAGIC !
POOF!
LIKE BLACK MAGIC ! BILLY SAW THAT LITTLE MAN READING A BLACK MAGIC BOOK, AND MUMBLING ALOUD ! COULD IT BE THAT HE CONJURED UP THE DEMON AND DIDN'T KNOW IT ? I'LL HAVE TO FIND HIM !
2

THE MAGIC MIX-UP


MEANWHILE BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF WHAT HAS OCCURRED BEHIND HIM, PROFESSOR TWEEDLE IS ABSORBED IN HIS BOOK, AND...
THIS CHARM IS SUPPOSED TO CONJURE UP A DANCING SKELETON BY SAYING...
VUBU VULU VUMU !
BUT OF COURSE IT'S ALL POPPYCOCK ! A DANCING SKELETON ! HA, HA !
POOF !
EEK !
YIPE !
GASP !
HOLY MOLEY ! WHAT A HORRIBLE THING
CLATTER CLATTER CLATTER !
THAT'S THAT ! I DON'T THINK THOSE BONES WILL EVER GET TOGETHER AGAIN !
WHAM !
I'VE GOT TO CATCH UP WITH THE MAN WHO'S CAUSING ALL THIS WITHOUT KNOWING IT ! NOW WHERE DID HE GO ?
AGAIN THE PROFESSOR MUMBLES AN INCANTATION ALOUD !
HESTO VESTO PRESTO !
POOF !
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE STATUES COME TO LIFE ! THIS BOOK GETS MORE CHILDISH BY THE MINUTE !
AND AGAIN CAPTAIN MARVEL IS SIDETRACKED!
WOO-WOO-NOOOO !
OMIGOSH ! FROM BAD TO WORSE !
3

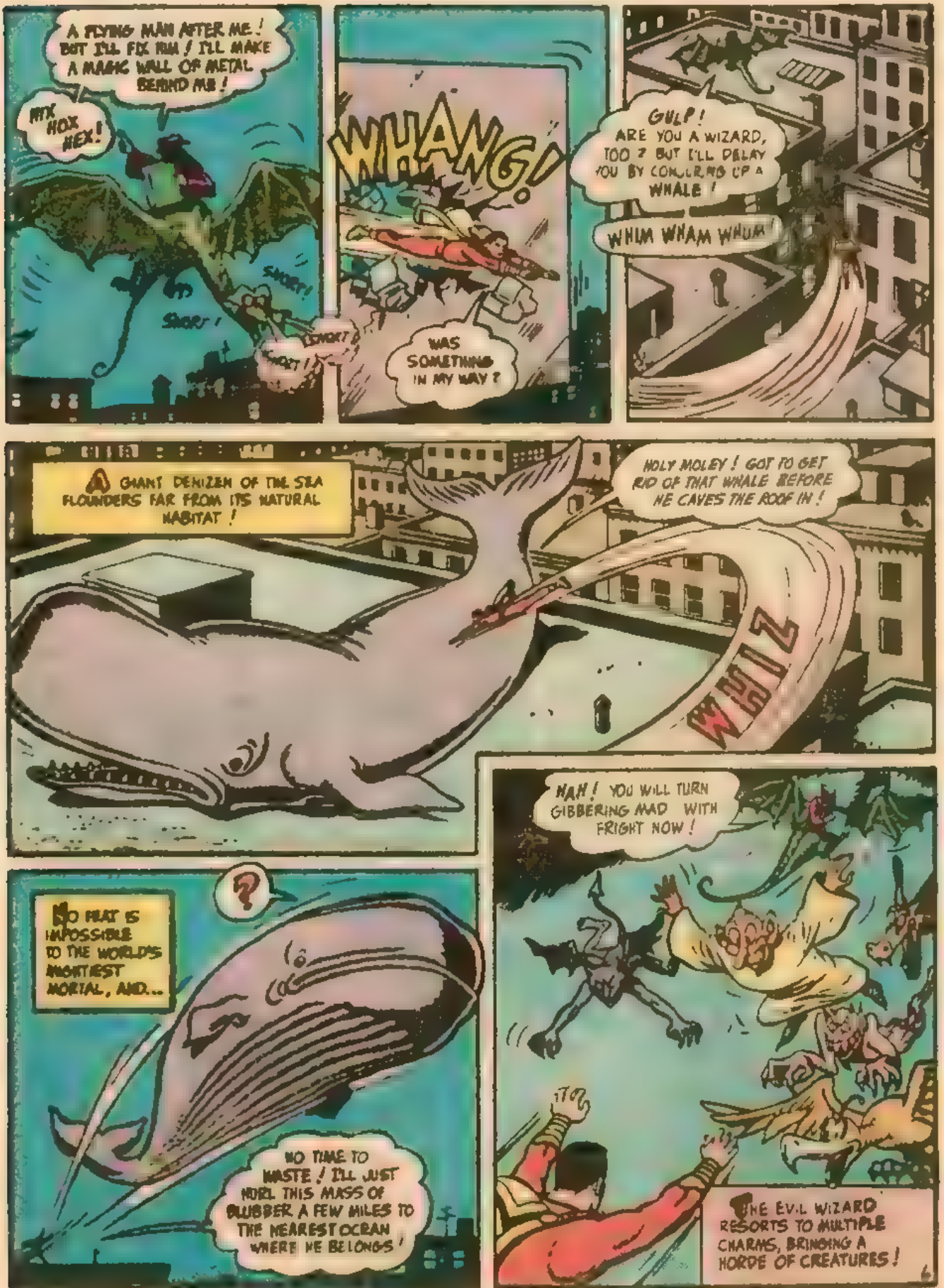
SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

BAM!
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE ? OH, SOME BLASTING, I SUPPOSE ! BUT I'M HOME NOW !
AT LAST I'VE CAUGHT UP WITH HIM !
GIVE ME THAT BOOK, SIR ! I'LL BURN IT ! MUMBLING THOSE CHARMS, YOU CONJURED UP A DEMON, A SKELETON, AND A LIVING STATUE .
WHAT ? RUBBISH ! LET GO OF MY BOOK !
CAPTAIN MARVEL ! NOW COULD YOU BELIEVE THOSE CHARMS WORKED ? FIDDLE FADDLE !
BUT I SAW THEM ! FOUGHT THEM ! THAT BOOK IS DANGEROUS !
PAH ! I'LL PROVE IT'S NONSENSE ! I'LL SPEAK ANOTHER SILLY CHARM ! IF NOTHING HAPPENS, WILL YOU GO AND LEAVE ME IN PEACE ?
ALL RIGHT ! IF IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO CONVINCE YOU ! GO AHEAD !
ZOMO ZOGO ZOTO !
I'M READY FOR ANYTHING THAT MATERIALIZES !
POOF !
WELL ? DO YOU SEE ANY WITCHES OR DEMONS OR MONSTERS, MY DEAR CAPTAIN MARVEL ?
HUH ? NOTHING HAPPENED !

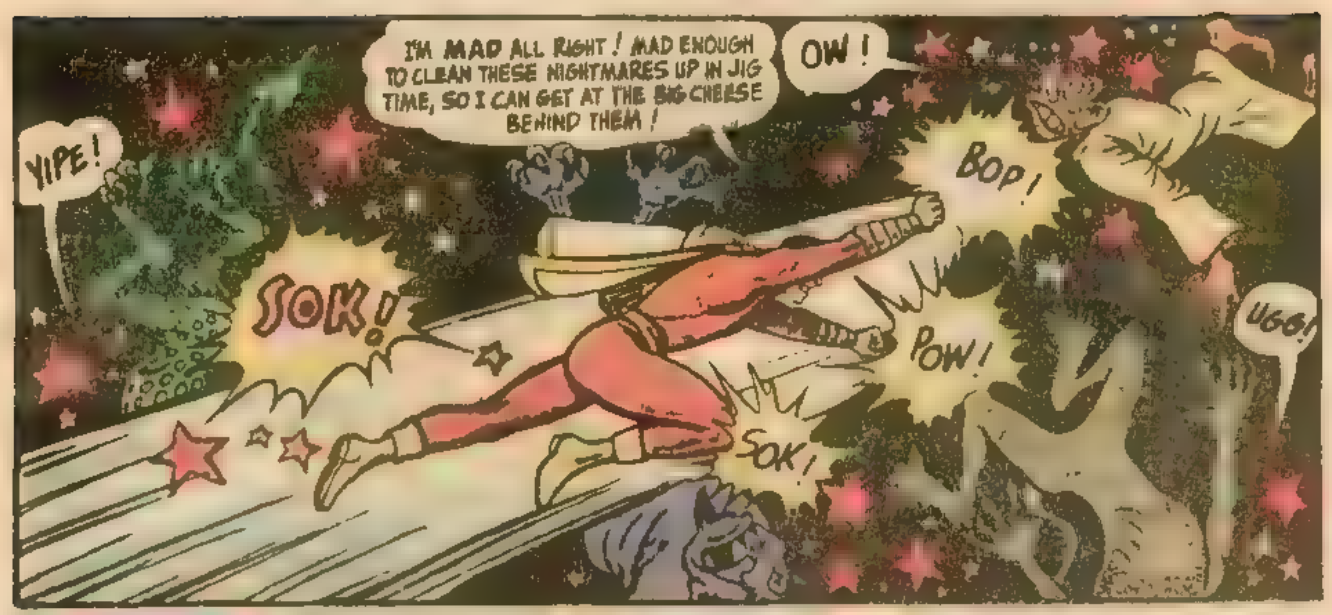
THE MAGIC MIX-UP

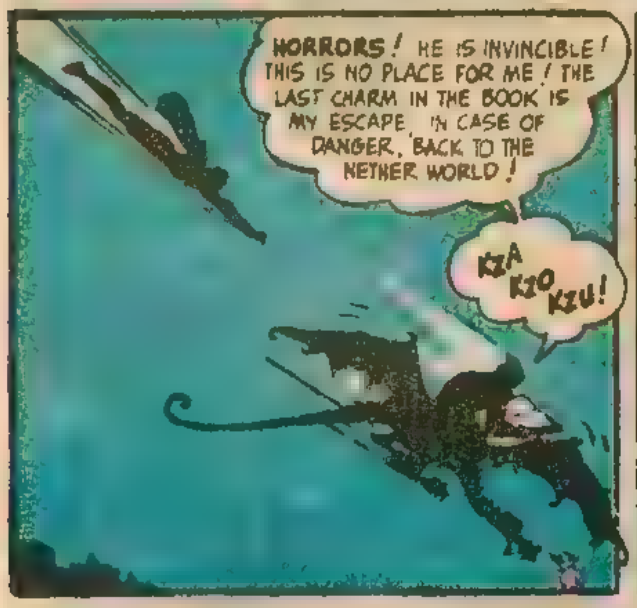
HAH! AT LAST HE CONJURED UP ME---AFREET UGLAH --- WHO WROTE THE BOOK! IT WAS THE FIRST CHARM, BUT HE SKIPPED IT BEFORE! NOW TO HIDE UNTIL NIGHT!
I BELIEVE I'VE PROVED THE BOOK IS HARMLESS! GOOD DAY, CAPTAIN MARVEL!
BUT... BUT...
NOW I AM STUMPED! IF THE BOOK DIDN'T CONJURE UP THOSE THINGS, WHAT DID? I'VE GOT TO THINK THIS ALL OUT!
THAT NIGHT...
THE PROFESSOR WILL BE ASLEEP NOW! I'M GOING TO GET THE BOOK AND TRY OUT THOSE CHARMS MYSELF AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF ALL THIS!
BUT THERE IS ANOTHER INTRUDER AHEAD OF CAPTAIN MARVEL!
400 YEARS AGO, I WAS DRIVEN TO THE NETHER WORLD BY WHITE MAGIC! BUT I LEFT BEHIND THIS BOOK, KNOWING THAT SOMEDAY THE FIRST CHARM WOULD BE SPOKEN, BRINGING ME BACK TO EARTH! NOW, WITH THE OTHER CHARMS, I CAN ONCE MORE WIN POWER THROUGH BLACK MAGIC!
ZZzzz!
FIRST, THE CHARM TO BRING ME A WINGED STEED!
ZZZZZ!
QUIK QUAK QUOK!
HOLY MOLEY! SOMEBODY ELSE GOT THE BOOK!
AWAY!

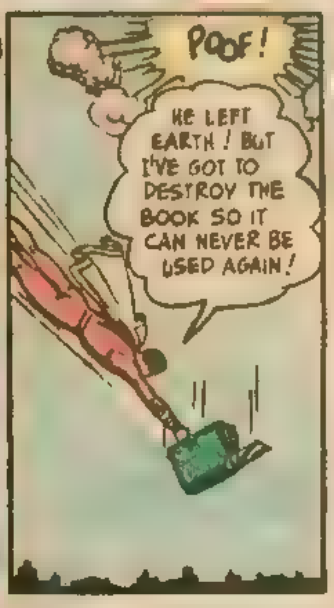
SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

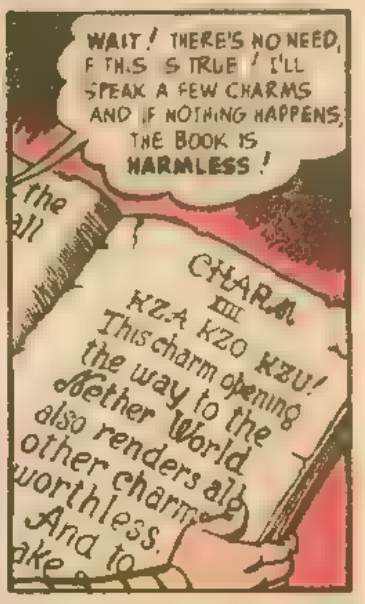

A FLYING MAN AFTER ME! BUT I'LL FIX HIM! I'LL MAKE A MAGIC WALL OF METAL BEHIND ME!
HIX HOX HEX!
SHOOT!
SHOOT!
SHOOT!
SHOOT!
WHANG!
WAS SOMETHING IN MY WAY?
GULP! ARE YOU A WIZARD, TOO? BUT I'LL DELAY YOU BY CONJURING UP A WHALE!
WHIM WHAM WHUM!
A GIANT DENIZEN OF THE SEA FLOUNDERS FAR FROM ITS NATURAL HABITAT!
HOLY MOLEY! GOT TO GET RID OF THAT WHALE BEFORE HE CAVES THE ROOF IN!
WHIZ
NAH! YOU WILL TURN GIBBERING MAD WITH FRIGHT NOW!
THE EVIL WIZARD RESORTS TO MULTIPLE CHARMS, BRINGING A HORDE OF CREATURES!
?
NO FEAT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL, AND...
NO TIME TO WASTE! I'LL JUST HURL THIS MASS OF BLUBBER A FEW MILES TO THE NEAREST OCEAN WHERE HE BELONGS!

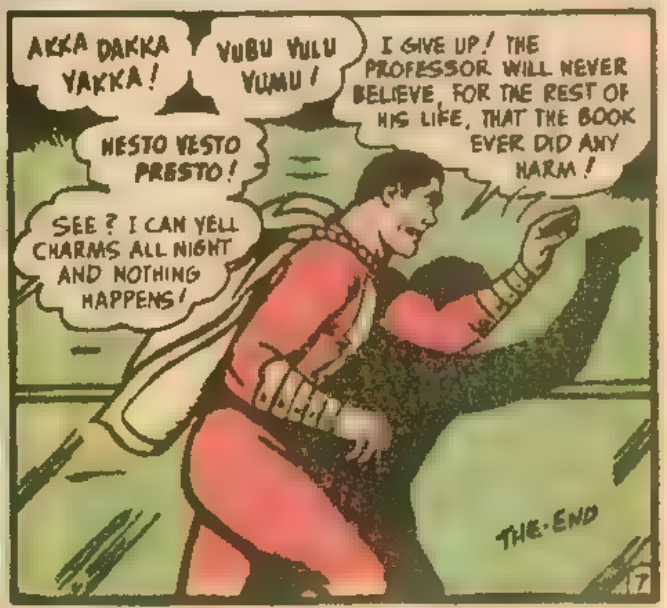
THE MAGIC MIX-UP




HORRORS! HE IS INVINCIBLE! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR ME! THE LAST CHARM IN THE BOOK IS MY ESCAPE, IN CASE OF DANGER, BACK TO THE NETHER WORLD!
KZA KZO KZU!

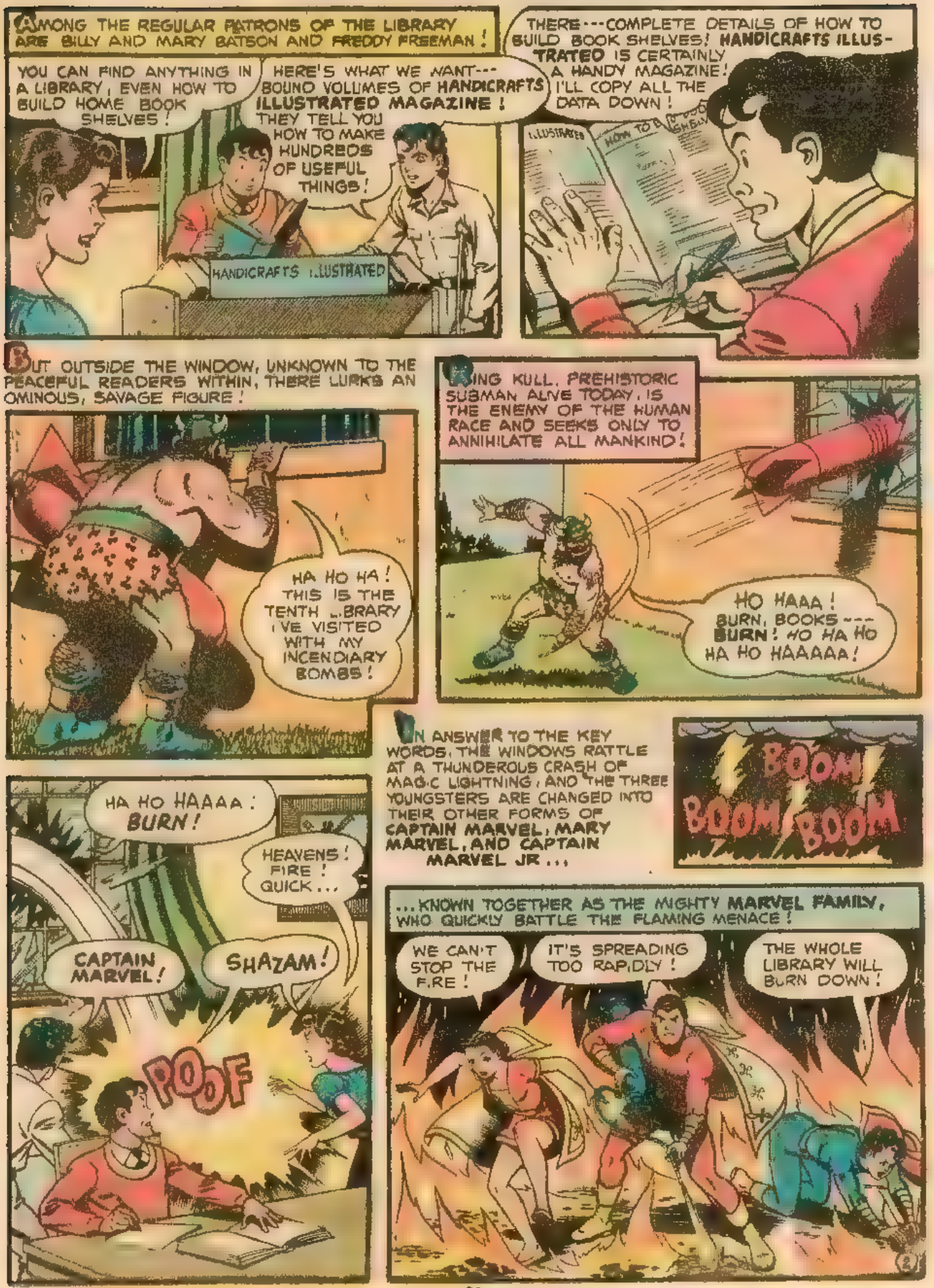



WAIT! THERE'S NO NEED, IF THIS IS TRUE! I'LL SPEAK A FEW CHARMS AND IF NOTHING HAPPENS, THE BOOK IS HARMLESS!
CHARM III
KZA KZO KZU!
This charm opening the way to the Nether World also renders all other charms worthless. And to
the
all
ake


AKKA DAKKA YAKKA!
VUBU VULU VUMU!
I GIVE UP! THE PROFESSOR WILL NEVER BELIEVE, FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, THAT THE BOOK EVER DID ANY HARM!
NESTO VESTO PRESTO!
SEE? I CAN YELL CHARMS ALL NIGHT AND NOTHING HAPPENS!
THE END
7

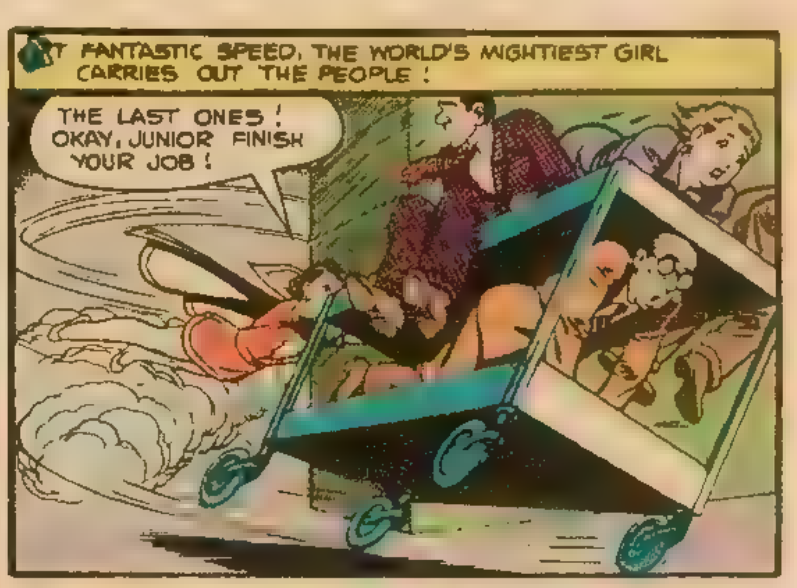
IN THIS ISSUE, YOU'VE LEARNED HOW BOOKS CAN CAUSE TROUBLE WIN FAME, LEAD TO ADVENTURE AND POSE MYSTERIES!
BUT SUPPOSE THERE WERE NO BOOKS? SUPPOSE ALL PRINTED MATTER ON EARTH WERE DESTROYED?
THAT'S WHAT KING KULL, OUR OLD ENEMY, ONCE TRIED TO DO! HE'S THE LAST SURVIVOR OF AN ANCIENT RACE OF BEASTMEN... AND HE WAS OUT TO DESTROY OUR CIVILIZATION!
THE MARVEL FAMILY
Battles "THE WORD WRECKER!"
YAH HA HA! SOON I WILL HAVE DESTROYED EVERY BOOK IN THE WORLD!
1953 by FAWCETT PUBLICATIONS INC
CHAPTER ONE - BURN, BOOKS... BURN!
A-983
ART - KURT SCHAFFENBERGER
WAREHOUSES STORE FOOD! BANKS STORE MONEY! BUT LIBRARIES STORE SOMETHING PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT IN THE FINAL DESTINY OF CIVILIZATION---HUMAN KNOWLEDGE!
ENTER YE THAT SEEK THE DISTILLED WISDOM OF THE AGES
PUBLIC LIBRARY
THE QUIET DIGNIFIED HALLS OF A LIBRARY SHELTER THE VAST SCOPES OF ALL HUMAN CULTURE!
SCIENCE

THE WORD WRECKER

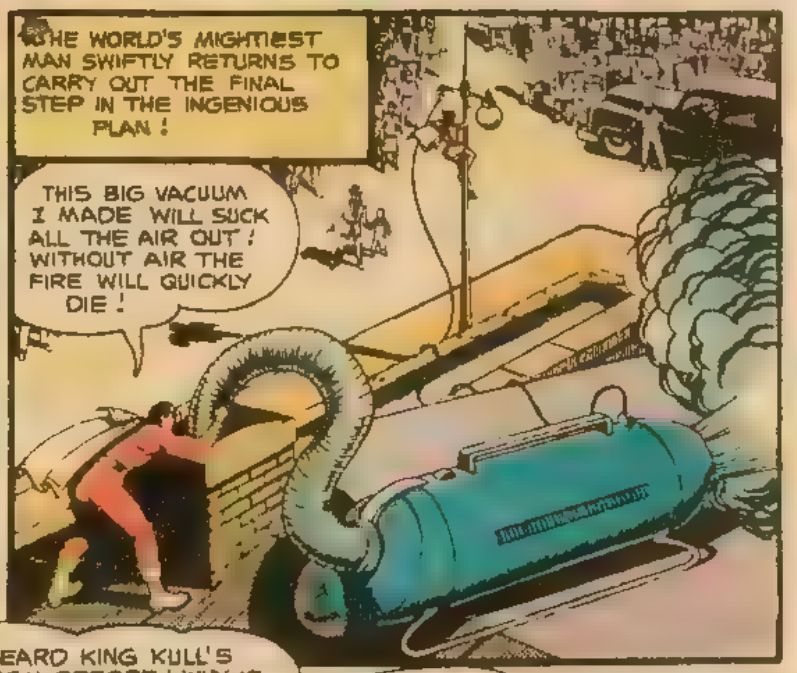

AMONG THE REGULAR PATRONS OF THE LIBRARY ARE BILLY AND MARY BATSON AND FREDDY FREEMAN!
YOU CAN FIND ANYTHING IN A LIBRARY, EVEN HOW TO BUILD HOME BOOK SHELVES!
HERE'S WHAT WE WANT--- BOUND VOLUMES OF HANDICRAFTS ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE! THEY TELL YOU HOW TO MAKE HUNDREDS OF USEFUL THINGS!
HANDICRAFTS ILLUSTRATED
THERE---COMPLETE DETAILS OF HOW TO BUILD BOOK SHELVES! HANDICRAFTS ILLUSTRATED IS CERTAINLY A HANDY MAGAZINE! I'LL COPY ALL THE DATA DOWN!
BUT OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, UNKNOWN TO THE PEACEFUL READERS WITHIN, THERE LURKS AN OMINOUS, SAVAGE FIGURE!
HA HO HA! THIS IS THE TENTH LIBRARY I'VE VISITED WITH MY INCENDIARY BOMBS!
KING KULL, PREHISTORIC SUBMAN ALIVE TODAY, IS THE ENEMY OF THE HUMAN RACE AND SEEKS ONLY TO ANNIHILATE ALL MANKIND!
HO HAAA! BURN, BOOKS--- BURN! HO HA HO HA HO HAAAAA!
IN ANSWER TO THE KEY WORDS, THE WINDOWS RATTLE AT A THUNDEROUS CRASH OF MAGIC LIGHTNING, AND THE THREE YOUNGSTERS ARE CHANGED INTO THEIR OTHER FORMS OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, MARY MARVEL, AND CAPTAIN MARVEL JR...
BOOM BOOM BOOM
HA HO HAAAA! BURN!
HEAVENS! FIRE! QUICK...
CAPTAIN MARVEL!
SHAZAM!
POOF
...KNOWN TOGETHER AS THE MIGHTY MARVEL FAMILY, WHO QUICKLY BATTLE THE FLAMING MENACE!
WE CAN'T STOP THE FIRE!
IT'S SPREADING TOO RAPIDLY!
THE WHOLE LIBRARY WILL BURN DOWN!

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

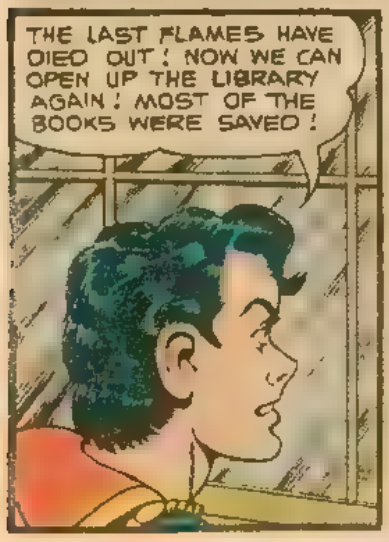
WE'VE GOT TO TRY SOMETHING BETTER... I HAVE IT! MARY, YOU EVACUATE ALL THE PEOPLE! THEN YOU SEAL ALL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS WITH PUTTY, JUNIOR! HURRY, TOP SPEED!



THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY ALSO RACES THE CLOCK!

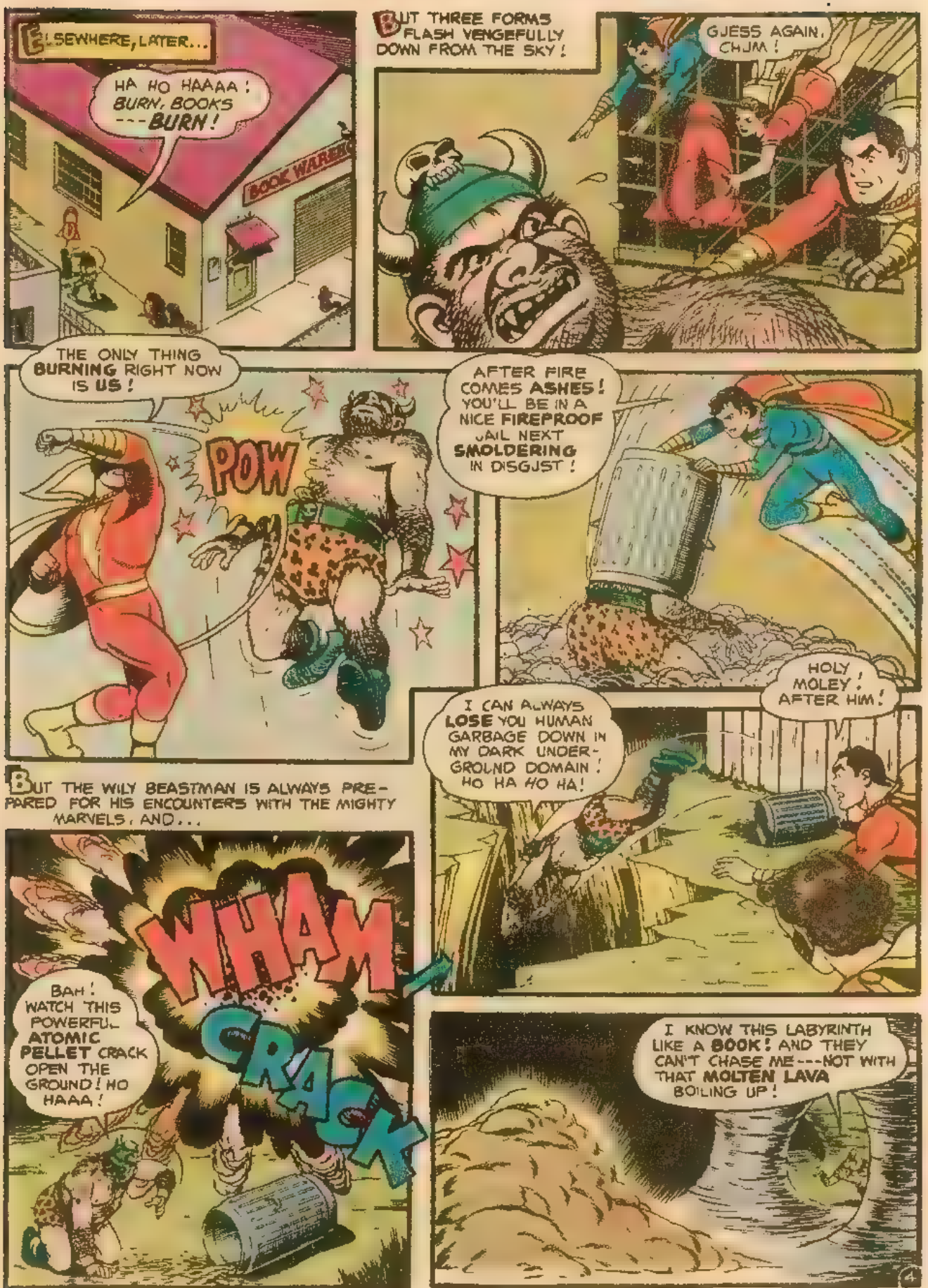

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN SWIFTLY RETURNS TO CARRY OUT THE FINAL STEP IN THE INGENIOUS PLAN!
THIS BIG VACUUM I MADE WILL SUCK ALL THE AIR OUT! WITHOUT AIR THE FIRE WILL QUICKLY DIE!

AND BY ITS QUICK ACTION, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST FAMILY SNUFFS OUT THE FIRE!



WE HEARD KING KULL'S EVIL LAUGH BEFORE! WHY IS HE TRYING TO BURN BOOKS, OF ALL THINGS? IT SEEMS SILLY!
NOT SILLY AT ALL, MARY! BOOKS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF CIVILIZATION, WHICH KING KULL SEEKS TO DESTROY!
THIS IS THE TENTH LIBRARY SET ON FIRE RECENTLY. NOW WE KNOW KING KULL IS THE ARSONIST! CRUISE THE CITY AND NAB HIM AT HIS NEXT ARSON JOB!
3

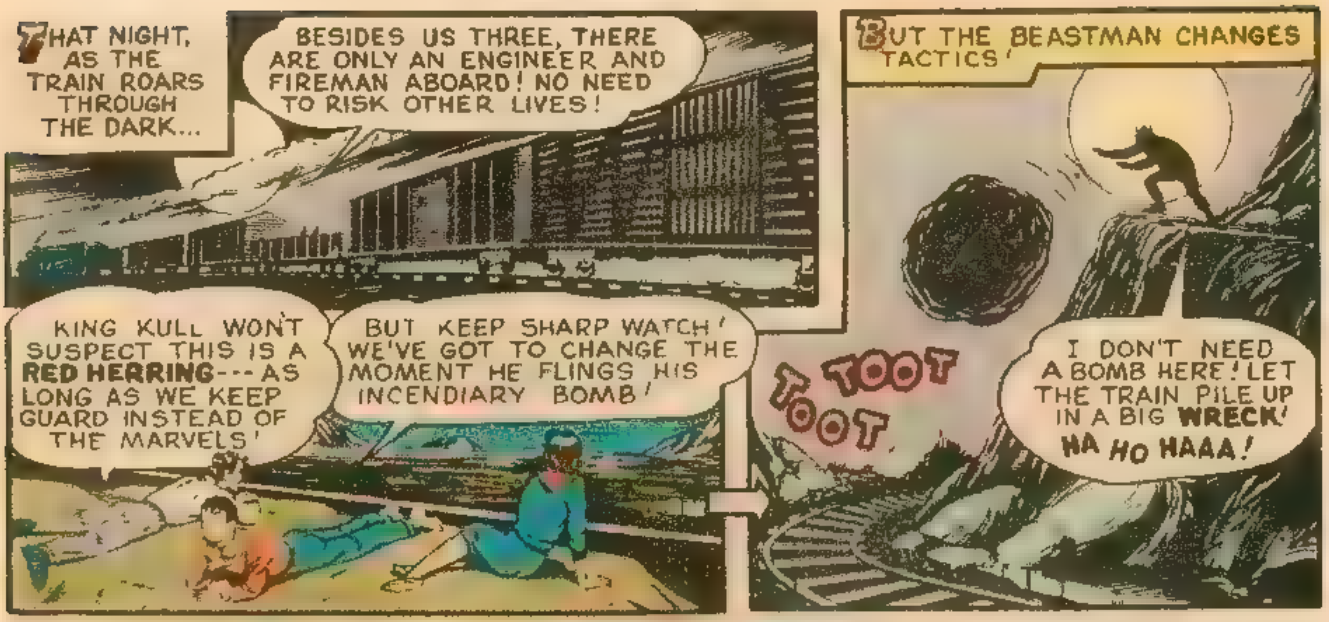
THE WORD WRECKER

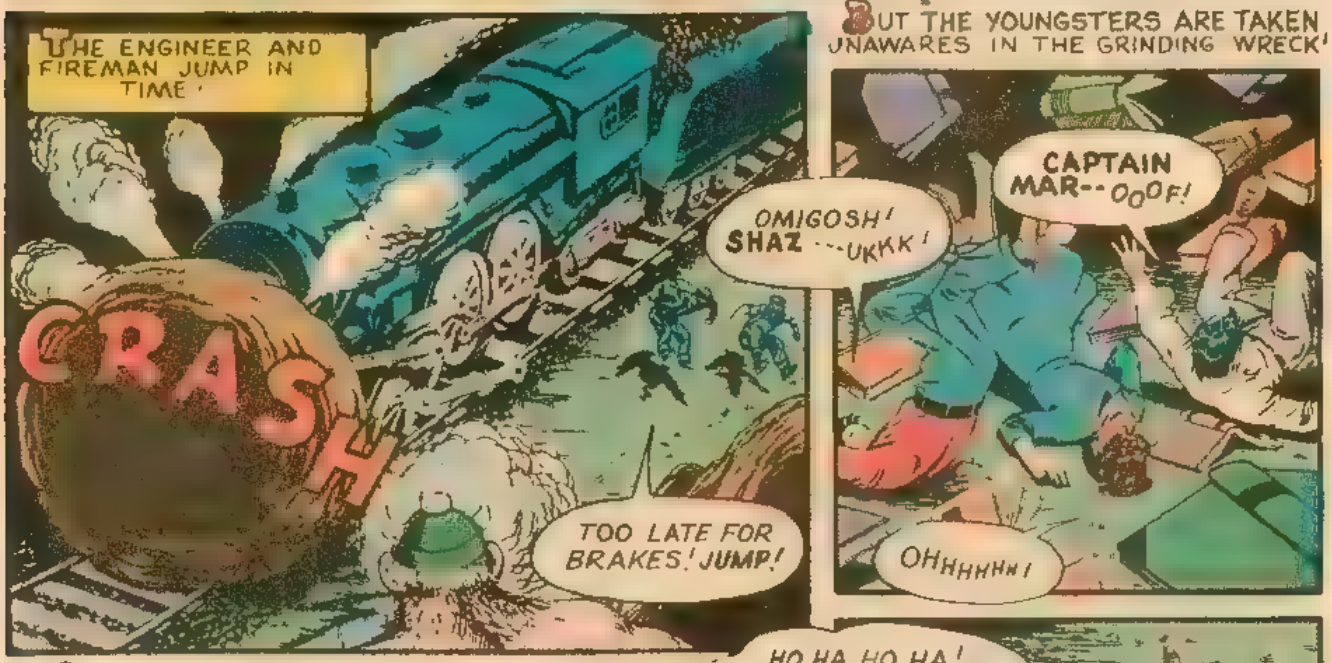

ELSEWHERE, LATER...
HA HO HAAAA! BURN, BOOKS ---BURN!
BOOK WAREH
BUT THREE FORMS FLASH VENGEFULLY DOWN FROM THE SKY!
GUESS AGAIN, CHUM!
THE ONLY THING BURNING RIGHT NOW IS US!
POW
AFTER FIRE COMES ASHES! YOU'LL BE IN A NICE FIREPROOF JAIL NEXT SMOLDERING IN DISGUST!
HOLY MOLEY! AFTER HIM!
I CAN ALWAYS LOSE YOU HUMAN GARBAGE DOWN IN MY DARK UNDERGROUND DOMAIN! HO HA HO HA!
BUT THE WILY BEASTMAN IS ALWAYS PREPARED FOR HIS ENCOUNTERS WITH THE MIGHTY MARVELS, AND...
WHAM
CRACK
BAH! WATCH THIS POWERFUL ATOMIC PELLET CRACK OPEN THE GROUND! HO HAAA!
I KNOW THIS LABYRINTH LIKE A BOOK! AND THEY CAN'T CHASE ME---NOT WITH THAT MOLTEN LAVA BOILING UP!
4

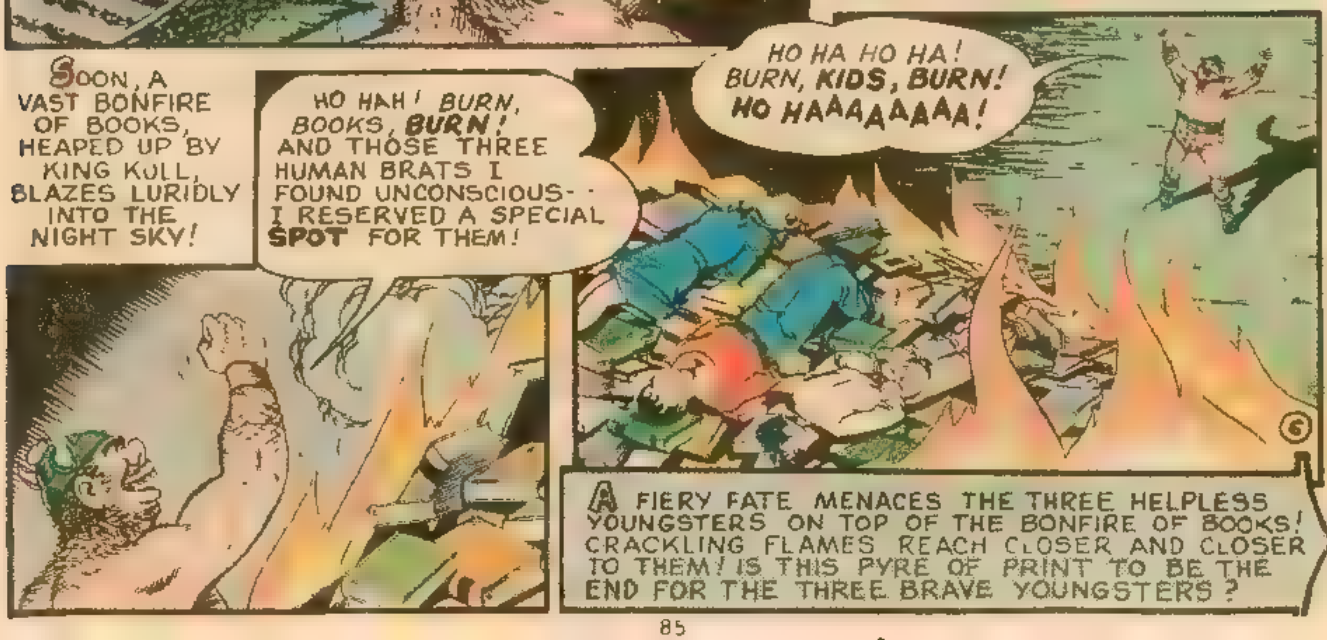
SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

HOLY MOLEY! GOT TO STOP THAT LAVA COMING UP!
BUT HOW?
SIMPLE ENOUGH! LET'S ROUND UP AN ICEBERG!
RETURNING IN SECONDS, THE MARVELS PREVENT CATASTROPHE!
GREAT IDEA, CAP! COOLED BY THE ICE, THE HARDENED LAVA WILL FORM ITS OWN PLUG! THE DANGER'S OVER!
SSSSSSS
BUT KING KULL'S STILL AT LARGE!
WE'VE GOT TO CAPTURE HIM SOMEHOW... HMM... I THINK THE YOUNGSTERS CAN HELP US! LISTEN...
THE NEXT DAY, AT STATION WHIZ, BILLY BATSON GIVES HIS USUAL NEWSCAST!
LAST OF ALL, FOLKS, A WHOLE TRAINLOAD OF BOOKS WILL BE SHIPPED TONIGHT FROM THIS CITY TO A NEW LIBRARY IN DOVERVILLE!
DEEP UNDERGROUND, WHERE KING KULL'S RADIO KEEPS HIM INFORMED ABOUT HUMAN AFFAIRS...
HAAA! A TRAINLOAD, EH? MILLIONS OF BOOKS FOR ME TO WIPE OUT IN ONE BLOW! I'LL MEET THAT TRAIN TONIGHT! HO HAAA!
CLICK!
OUR TRAP IS SET!
KING KULL WANTS TO DESTROY BIG BATCHES OF BOOKS, SO THAT BAIT OUGHT TO LURE HIM TO THE TRAIN!
AND WE'LL BE ABOARD TO SPRING THE TRAP!
5

THE WORD WRECKER

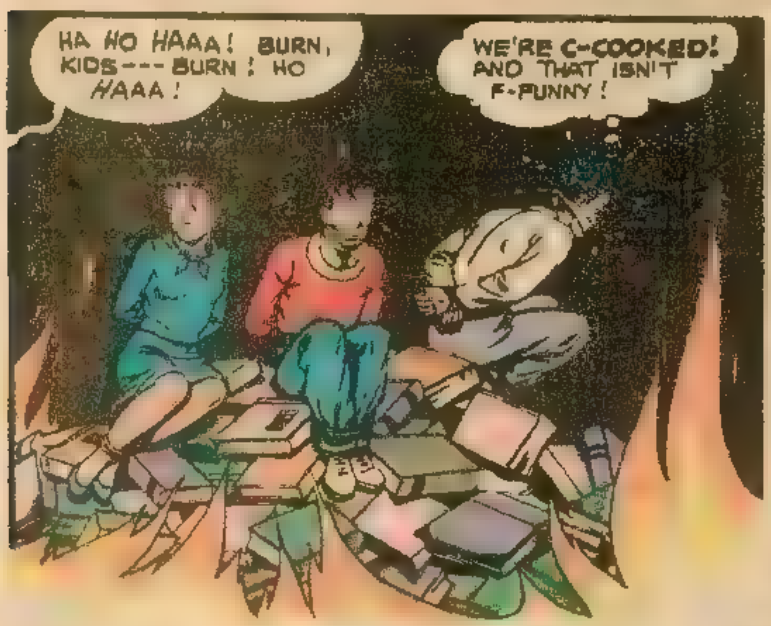

THAT NIGHT, AS THE TRAIN ROARS THROUGH THE DARK...
BESIDES US THREE, THERE ARE ONLY AN ENGINEER AND FIREMAN ABOARD! NO NEED TO RISK OTHER LIVES!
KING KULL WON'T SUSPECT THIS IS A RED HERRING--- AS LONG AS WE KEEP GUARD INSTEAD OF THE MARVELS!
BUT KEEP SHARP WATCH! WE'VE GOT TO CHANGE THE MOMENT HE FLINGS HIS INCENDIARY BOMB!
BUT THE BEASTMAN CHANGES TACTICS!
TOOT TOOT
I DON'T NEED A BOMB HERE! LET THE TRAIN PILE UP IN A BIG WRECK! HA HO HAAA!

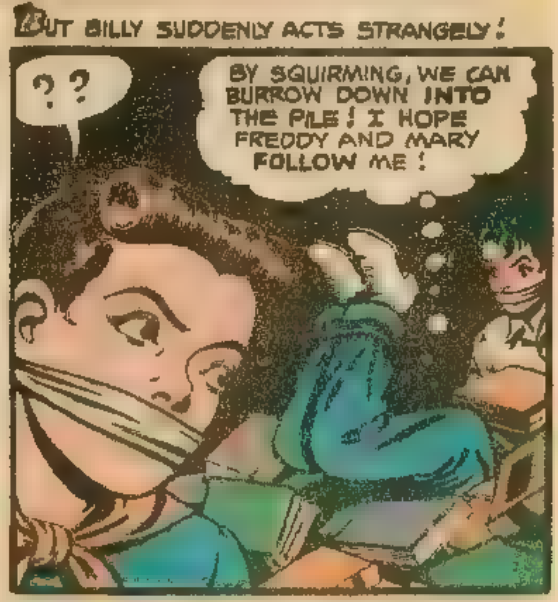

THE ENGINEER AND FIREMAN JUMP IN TIME!
CRASH
OMIGOSH! SHAZ ---UKKK!
TOO LATE FOR BRAKES! JUMP!
BUT THE YOUNGSTERS ARE TAKEN UNAWARES IN THE GRINDING WRECK!
CAPTAIN MAR--OOOF!
OHHHHHH!

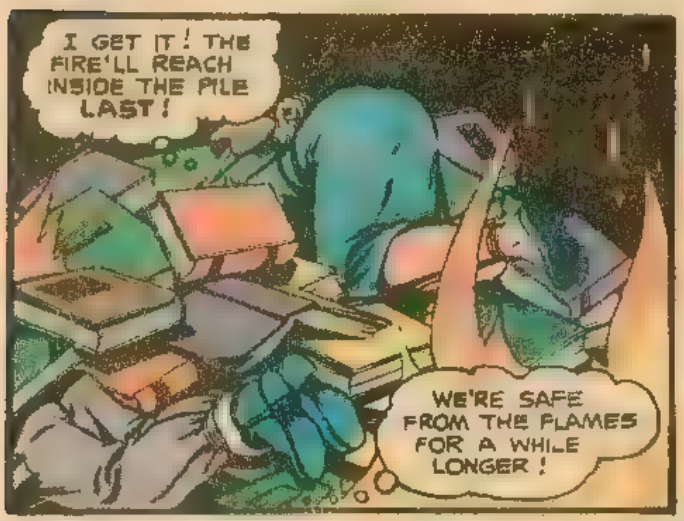

SOON, A VAST BONFIRE OF BOOKS, HEAPED UP BY KING KULL, BLAZES LURIDLY INTO THE NIGHT SKY!
HO HAH! BURN, BOOKS, BURN! AND THOSE THREE HUMAN BRATS I FOUND UNCONSCIOUS-- I RESERVED A SPECIAL SPOT FOR THEM!
HO HA HO HA! BURN, KIDS, BURN! HO HAAAAAAAA!
A FIERY FATE MENACES THE THREE HELPLESS YOUNGSTERS ON TOP OF THE BONFIRE OF BOOKS! CRACKLING FLAMES REACH CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THEM! IS THIS PYRE OF PRINT TO BE THE END FOR THE THREE BRAVE YOUNGSTERS?

SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

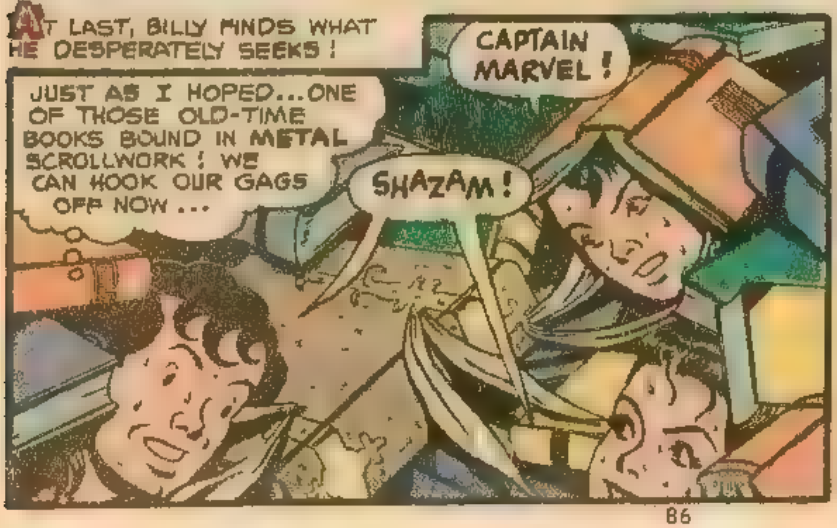
CHAPTER TWO - THE PERIL of the PAPER PYRES

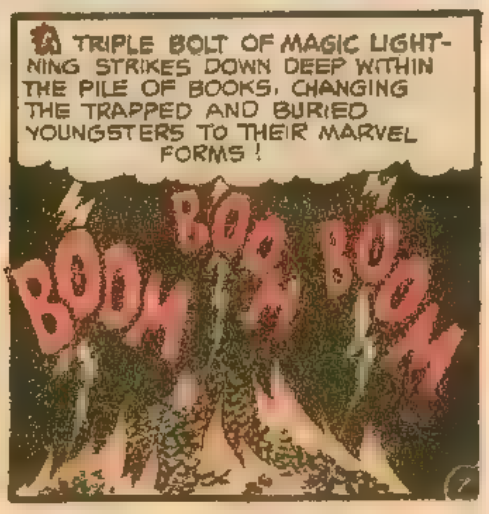






BUT WHAT GOOD IS IT? SOON THE WHOLE PILE WILL BURN ANYWAY! WE'RE STILL TRAPPED! BUT BILLY...HE SEEMS TO BE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING---?


AT LAST, BILLY FINDS WHAT HE DESPERATELY SEEKS!
CAPTAIN MARVEL!
JUST AS I HOPED...ONE OF THOSE OLD-TIME BOOKS BOUND IN METAL SCROLLWORK! WE CAN HOOK OUR GAGS OFF NOW...
SHAZAM!


A TRIPLE BOLT OF MAGIC LIGHTNING STRIKES DOWN DEEP WITHIN THE PILE OF BOOKS, CHANGING THE TRAPPED AND BURIED YOUNGSTERS TO THEIR MARVEL FORMS!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

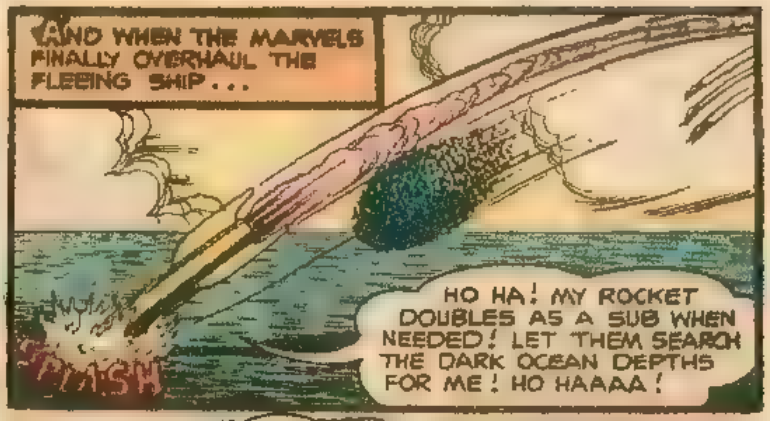
THE WORD WRECKER

IGNORING FLAME OR ANY OTHER FORM OF DESTRUCTION, THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST FAMILY ESCAPES THE BONFIRE OF BOOKS!
WHEWWWW! THAT WAS ALMOST FINIS, AS THE BOOKS SAY, FOR THE KIDS!
KING KULL IS GONE, OF COURSE! IF HE KEEPS BURNING BOOKS BY THE MILLION, HE'LL WIPE OUT ALL THE WORLD'S PRINTED MATTER!
WAIT! IS THAT LOGICAL? IF KING KULL IS TRYING TO BURN ALL BOOKS IN THE WORLD, HE'S PLAIN CRAZY!
SURE! BILLIONS OF BOOKS IN MILLIONS OF LIBRARIES! IT WOULD TAKE HIM A CENTURY!
LOOKS AS IF HE BIT OFF MORE THAN HE CAN CHEW! HE WON'T SUCCEED!
MEANWHILE, BILLY, MARY AND FREDDY HAVE RESUMED THEIR NORMAL LIVES!
NOW THE THEORY OF MAGNETISM, STUDENTS! CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, MAGNETISM DOES NOT WORK ONLY ON IRON! NICKEL, COBALT AND MANY OTHER MATERIALS DISPLAY MAGNETIC PROPERTIES!
BUT THE CUNNING BEASTMAN IS WELL AWARE OF THE IMPOSSIBLE JOB AHEAD OF HIM!
THAT WAS FUN, BURNING A FEW MILLION BOOKS! BUT NOW TO GET DOWN TO BRASS TACKS AND START OFF PLAN TWO IN MY CAMPAIGN TO WIPE OUT ALL PRINTING ON EARTH! HO HAAAAA!
HERE I COME AGAIN, HUMAN GARBAGE! AND WILL YOU BE HORRIFIED AT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT! HA HO HA HO HAAAA!
IN FACT, IT CAN BE SURMISED THAT ALL MATTER HAS A CERTAIN DEGREE OF MAGNETISM AND... DEAR ME! WHAT'S HAPPENING?
GOODNESS!
CAPTAIN MARVEL!
HOLY MOLEY! THE BOOKS AND PAPERS ARE ALL BEING SUCKED AWAY--- ALMOST LIKE MAGNETISM!
SHAZAM!
ONCE MORE, MAGIC LIGHTNING CHANGES THE YOUNGSTERS INTO THEIR MARVEL FORMS!
BOOM BOOM BOOM

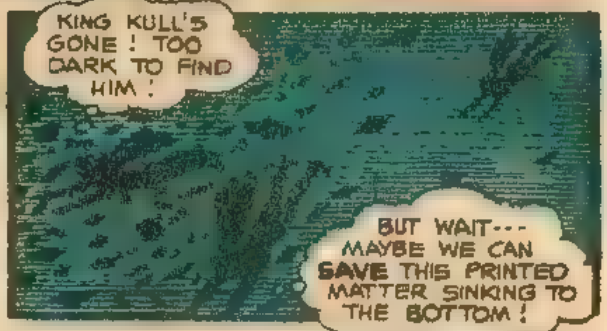
SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!

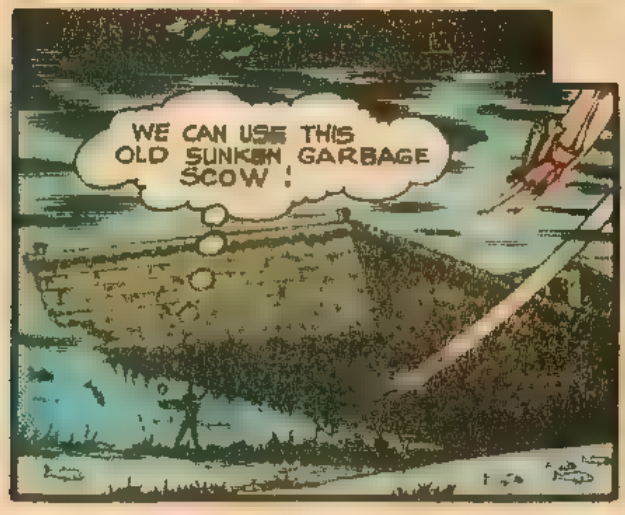
AND THE MARVEL FAMILY SEEKS THE ANSWER TO THE AMAZING MYSTERY!
HELP!
HURRY! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO!
OHHHHH!
HELP!
YIPES! YOU SHOULD HAVE LET GO OF THAT BUNDLE SOONER!
EEK!
CRASH
EASY, LADY! I'LL SAVE YOU!
BUSH
SHO
HOLY MOLEY! EVEN MONEY FLYING AWAY AND UP! KING KULL MUST BE AT WORK AGAIN!
LAST NATIONA BANK
AND HIGH ABOVE THE CITY...
HO HA HO HA! MY PAPER MAGNET WORKS FINE! UP COMES ALL THE PAPER IN THE CITY! HO HAAAA!
KING KULL'S ROCKET SHIP! HE MUST HAVE INVENTED A POWERFUL PAPER MAGNET! GET HIM!
BUT THE WATCHFUL BEASTMAN SEES THEM COMING AND...
HO HA! IF I TURN THE MAGNETISM LOW FOR A MOMENT, TONS OF LOOSE PAPER WILL COVER MY ESCAPE FROM THOSE HUMAN STUPES!
9

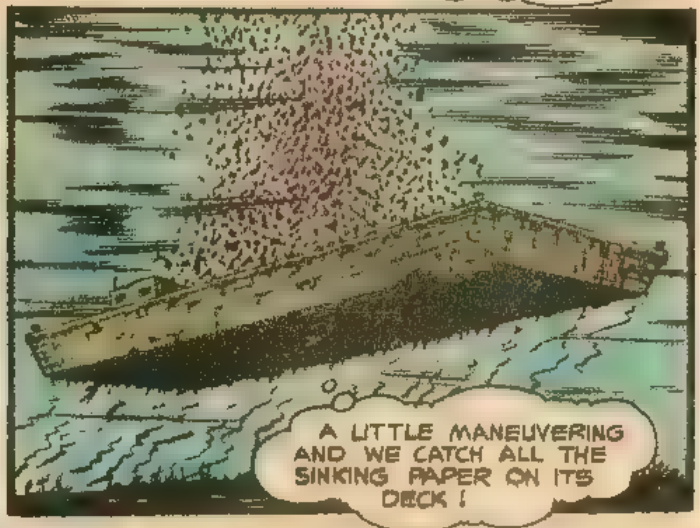
THE WORD WRECKER

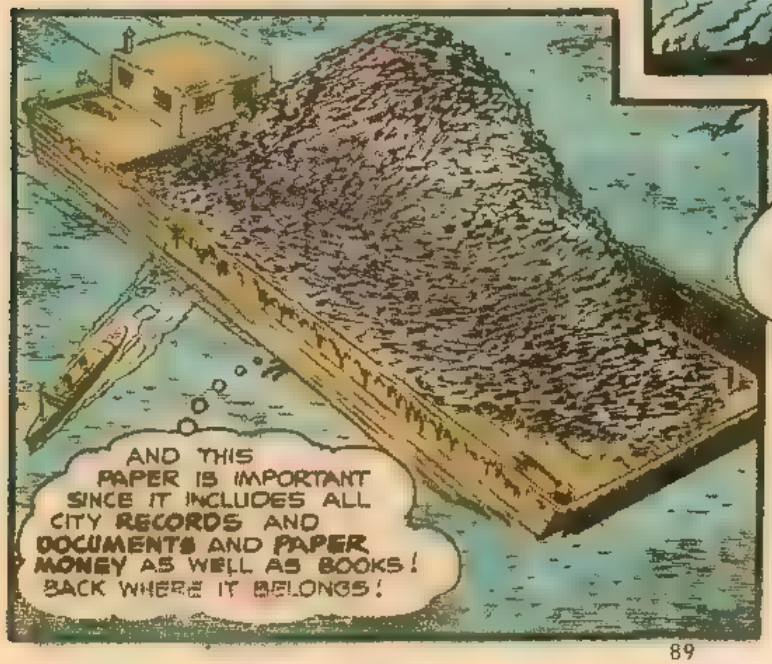

AND WHEN THE MARVELS FINALLY OVERHAUL THE FLEEING SHIP...
SPLASH
HO HA! MY ROCKET DOUBLES AS A SUB WHEN NEEDED! LET THEM SEARCH THE DARK OCEAN DEPTHS FOR ME! HO HAAAA!

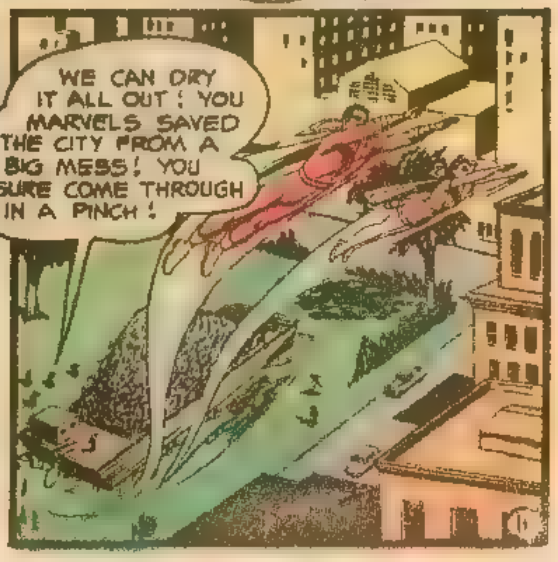
UNDERWATER, IN DIM MURK, THE PURSUERS LOSE THE TRAIL COMPLETELY!



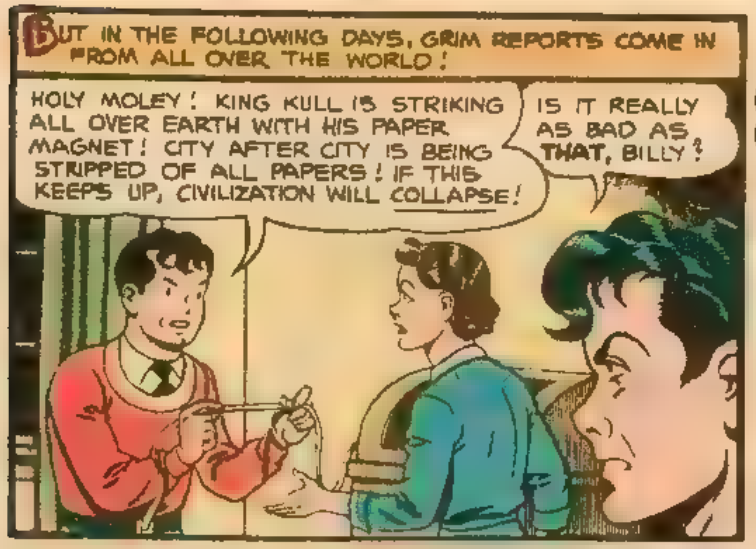





AND THIS PAPER IS IMPORTANT SINCE IT INCLUDES ALL CITY RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS AND PAPER MONEY AS WELL AS BOOKS! BACK WHERE IT BELONGS!

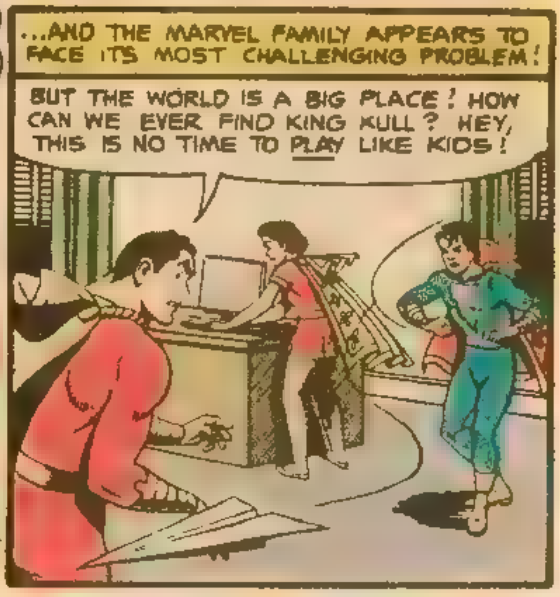


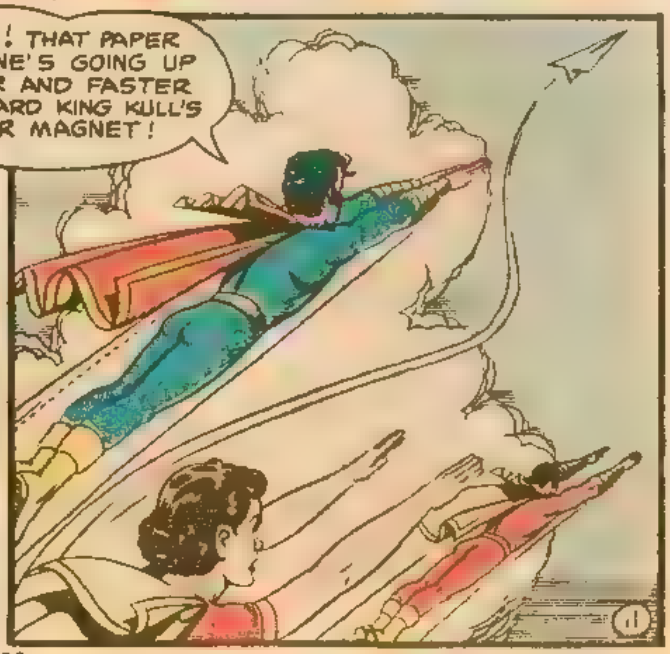
SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!


BUT IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, GRIM REPORTS COME IN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD!
HOLY MOLEY! KING KULL IS STRIKING ALL OVER EARTH WITH HIS PAPER MAGNET! CITY AFTER CITY IS BEING STRIPPED OF ALL PAPERS! IF THIS KEEPS UP, CIVILIZATION WILL COLLAPSE!
IS IT REALLY AS BAD AS, THAT, BILLY?

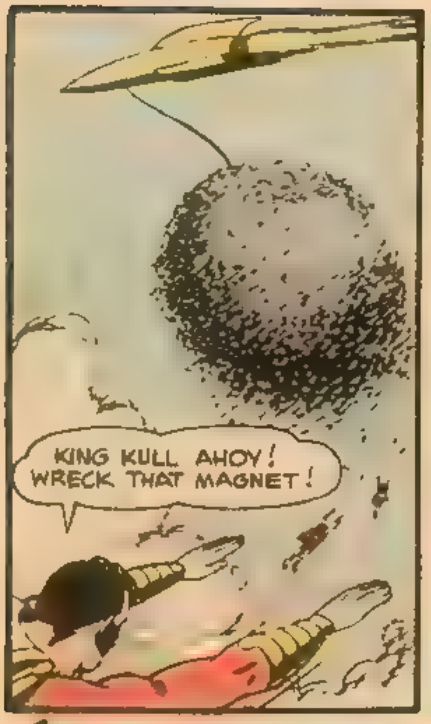
YES! IT ISN'T THE PAPER ITSELF THAT'S IMPORTANT---BUT THE PRINTED WORD! KING KULL IS TRYING TO DESTROY THE WORLD'S PRINTED WORDS! IN SHORT, ALL RECORDED HUMAN KNOWLEDGE!

JUST THINK IF ALL SCIENCE BOOKS ALONE WERE DESTROYED! CIVILIZATION WOULD BE THROWN BACK INTO IGNORANCE! ALL HUMAN THOUGHT FOR TEN THOUSAND YEARS WOULD BE LOST! THE WORLD'S WORDS MUST BE SAVED...
SHAZAM!
CAPTAIN MARVEL!


...AND THE MARVEL FAMILY APPEARS TO FACE ITS MOST CHALLENGING PROBLEM!
BUT THE WORLD IS A BIG PLACE! HOW CAN WE EVER FIND KING KULL? HEY, THIS IS NO TIME TO PLAY LIKE KIDS!

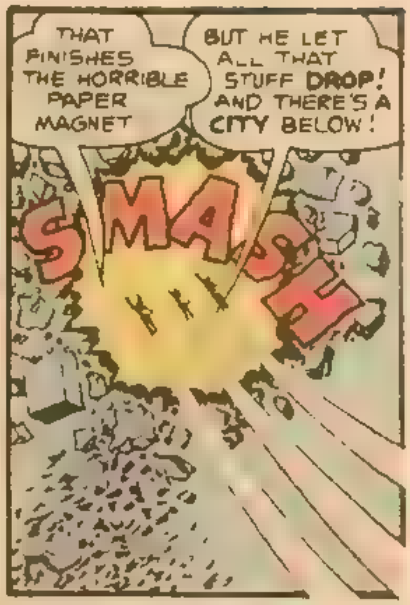


THE WORD WRECKER

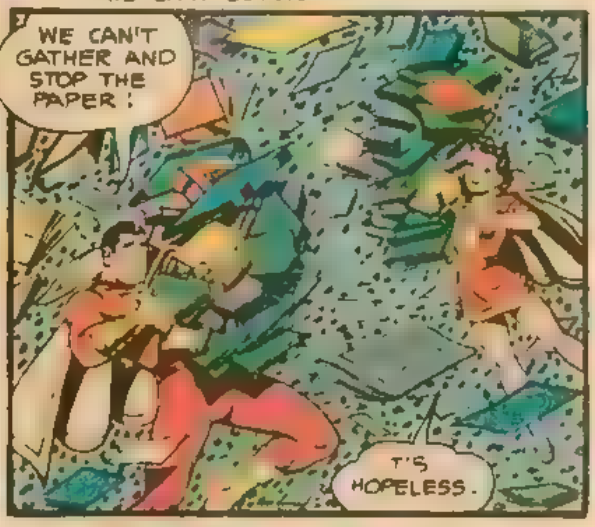


BUT AGAIN THE BEASTMAN'S BRAIN WORKS FIENDISHLY.

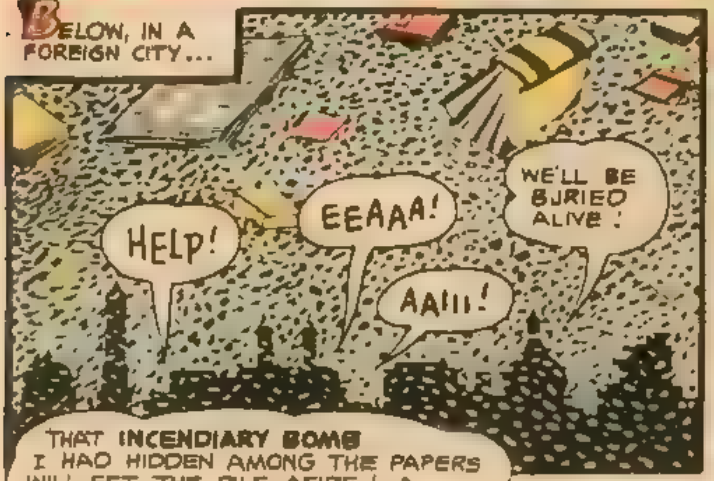
BLAST THEM! HOW DID THEY FIND ME? BUT I'LL RELEASE THE MAGNETISM AND LET THE PAPER DROP! A LOAD OF MILLIONS OF TONS! ENOUGH TO BURY THE CITY RIGHT BELOW!

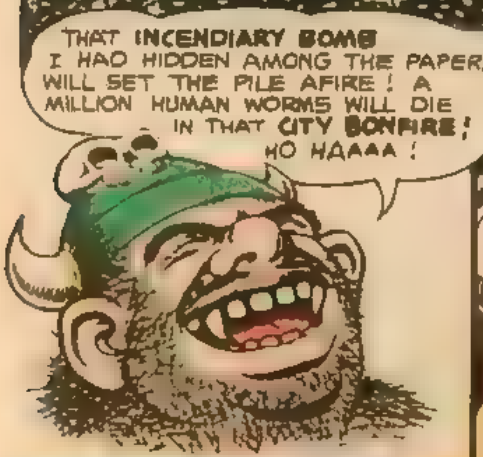


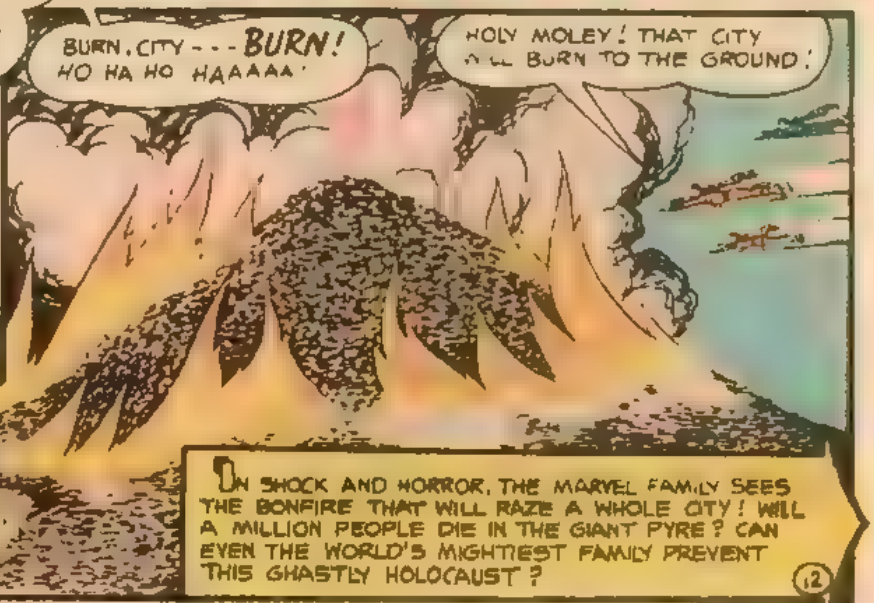
FORCED TO LET KING KULL ESCAPE THE MARVEL FAMILY DESPERATELY TRIES TO AID THE CITY, BUT...



BELOW, IN A FOREIGN CITY...



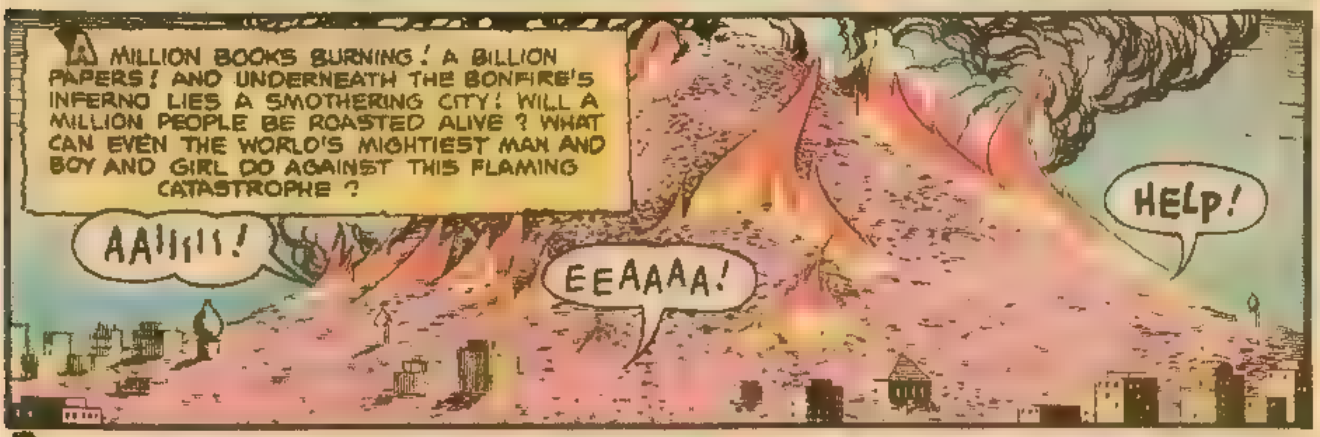

THAT INCENDIARY BOMB I HAD HIDDEN AMONG THE PAPERS WILL SET THE PILE AFIRE! A MILLION HUMAN WORMS WILL DIE IN THAT CITY BONFIRE! HO HAAAA!



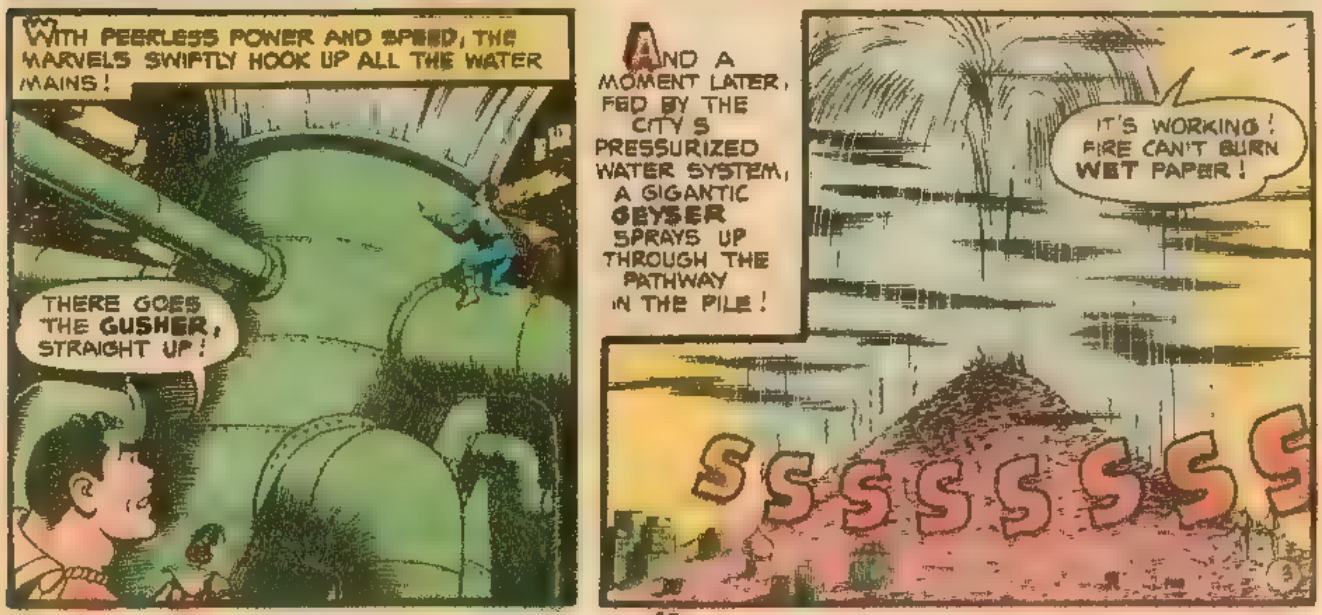
IN SHOCK AND HORROR, THE MARVEL FAMILY SEES THE BONFIRE THAT WILL RAZE A WHOLE CITY! WILL A MILLION PEOPLE DIE IN THE GIANT PYRE? CAN EVEN THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST FAMILY PREVENT THIS GHASTLY HOLOCAUST?

12

CHAPTER THREE - BATTLE of the BOOKS


A MILLION BOOKS BURNING! A BILLION PAPERS! AND UNDERNEATH THE BONFIRE'S INFERNO LIES A SMOTHERING CITY! WILL A MILLION PEOPLE BE ROASTED ALIVE? WHAT CAN EVEN THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MAN AND BOY AND GIRL DO AGAINST THIS FLAMING CATASTROPHE?
AAIIIII!
EEAAAA!
HELP!

BUT THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST TRIO ALREADY HAS A PLAN!
FIRST DIVE DOWN THROUGH THE PILE TO THE CITY STREETS!
STREET LEVEL! BUT KEEP GOING DOWN TO THE WATER MAINS!
AT THE SAME TIME, WE LEAVE A BIG HOLE IN THE PILE!

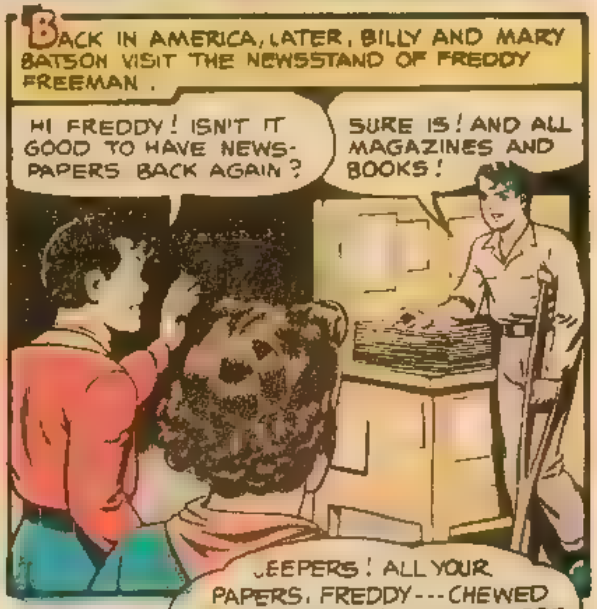

WITH PEERLESS POWER AND SPEED, THE MARVELS SWIFTLY HOOK UP ALL THE WATER MAINS!
THERE GOES THE GUSHER, STRAIGHT UP!
AND A MOMENT LATER, FED BY THE CITY'S PRESSURIZED WATER SYSTEM, A GIGANTIC GEYSER SPRAYS UP THROUGH THE PATHWAY IN THE PILE!
IT'S WORKING! FIRE CAN'T BURN WET PAPER!
SSSSSSSSS

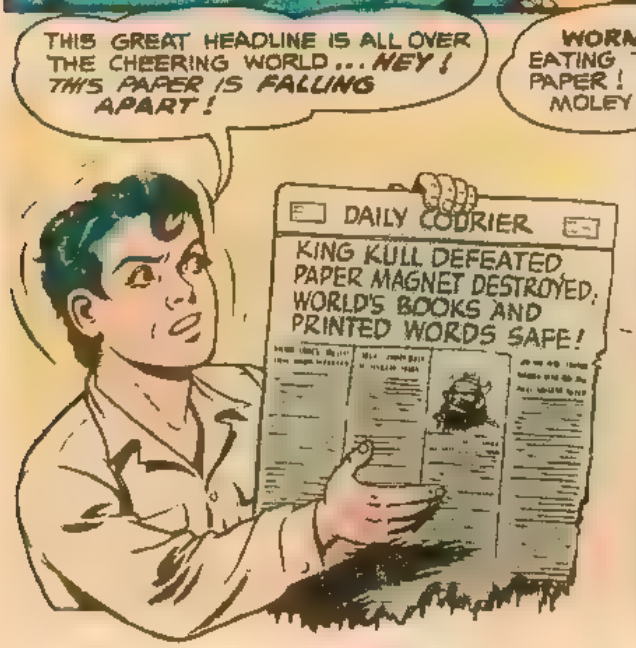
THE WORD WRECKER

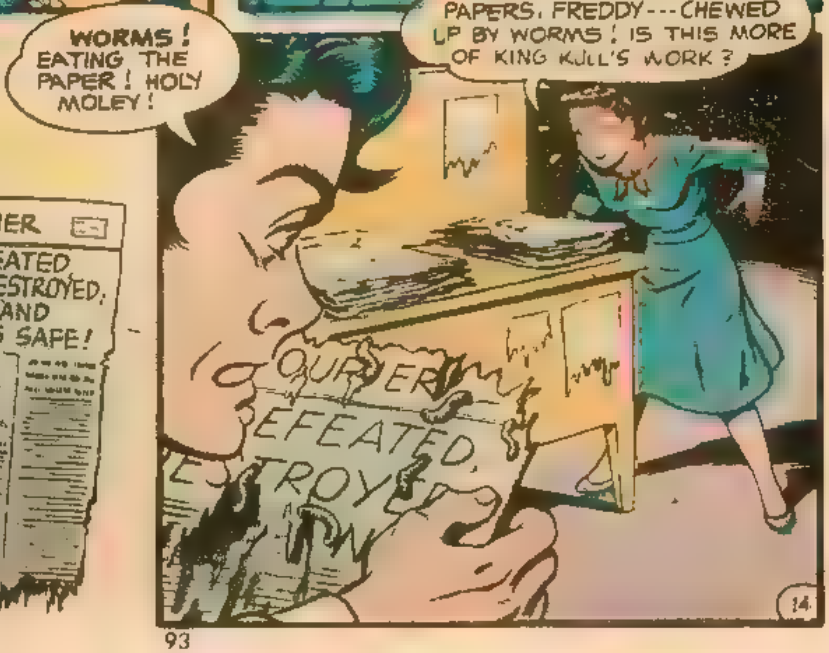
THE FIRE'S OUT, BUT OUR JOB ISN'T DONE! WE'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THE BOOKS BEFORE THE PEOPLE SUFFOCATE!
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST BOY HURLS BOOKS AND PAPERS AWAY!

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST GIRL RELAYS THEM FROM MID-AIR DOWNWARD!
HERE THEY COME DOWN, CAPTAIN MARVEL! WE'RE STEPPING THE RATE UP TO A THOUSAND A SECOND!

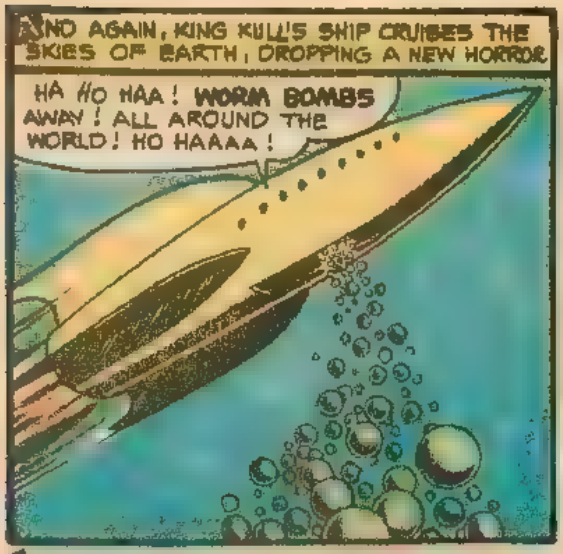
ONLY MINUTES LATER, BEFORE HUMAN LUNGS HAVE HAD TIME TO SMOTHER, THE CITY IS MARVELLOUSLY CLEARED!
WE FIXED THE WATER MAINS, TOO! BY TOMORROW, THE CITY WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL!
ALLAH BLESS THE GREAT MARVEL FAMILY!

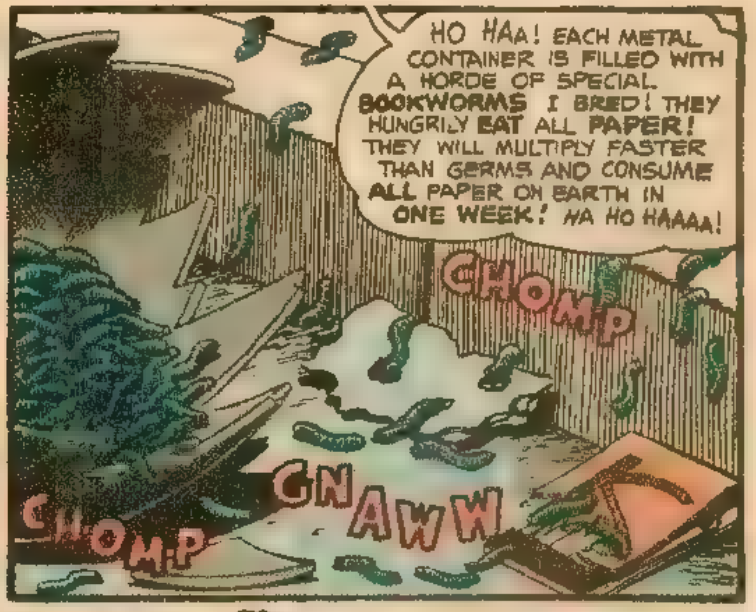

BACK IN AMERICA, LATER, BILLY AND MARY BATSON VISIT THE NEWSSTAND OF FREDDY FREEMAN.
HI FREDDY! ISN'T IT GOOD TO HAVE NEWSPAPERS BACK AGAIN?
SURE IS! AND ALL MAGAZINES AND BOOKS!

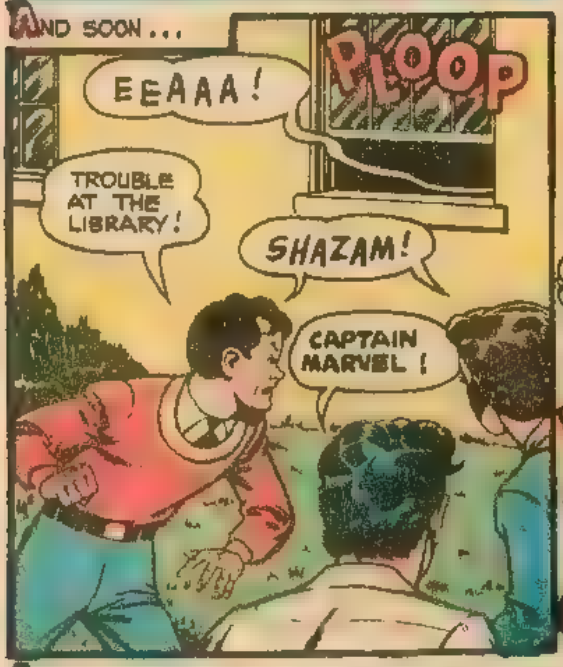

THIS GREAT HEADLINE IS ALL OVER THE CHEERING WORLD... HEY! THIS PAPER IS FALLING APART!
DAILY COURIER
KING KULL DEFEATED, PAPER MAGNET DESTROYED; WORLD'S BOOKS AND PRINTED WORDS SAFE!

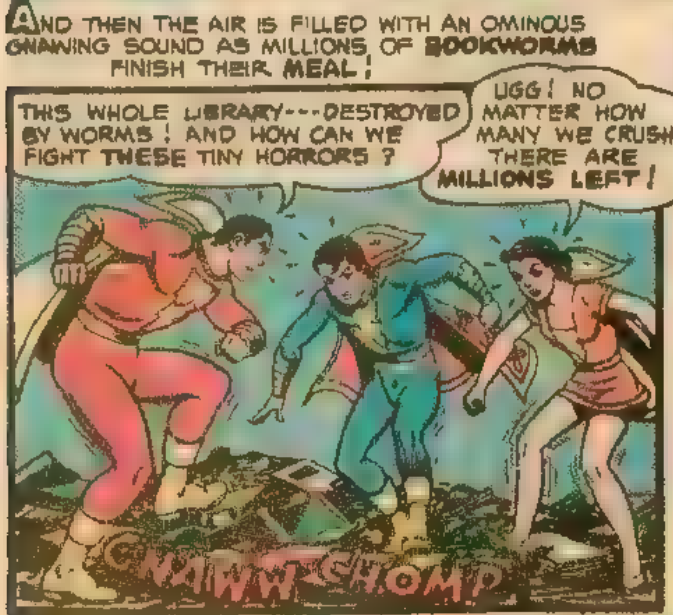


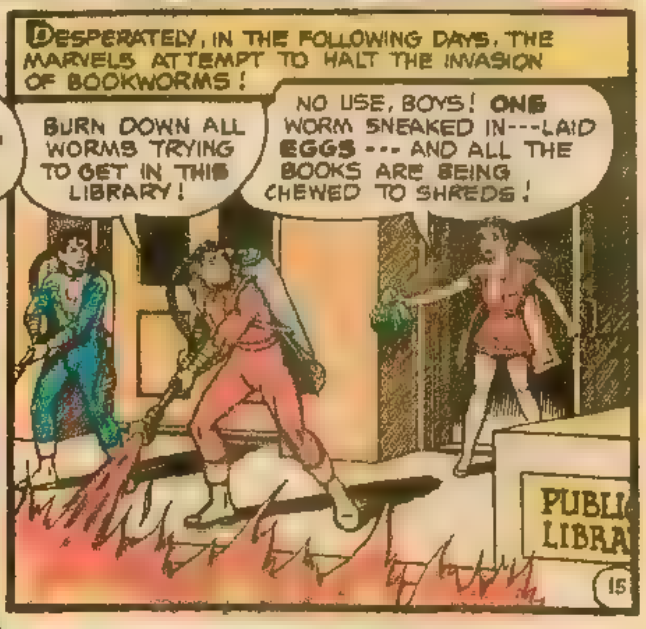
SUPER-SPECTACULAR SHAZAM!


AND AGAIN, KING KULL'S SHIP CRUISES THE SKIES OF EARTH, DROPPING A NEW HORROR
HA HO HAA! WORM BOMBS AWAY! ALL AROUND THE WORLD! HO HAAAA!

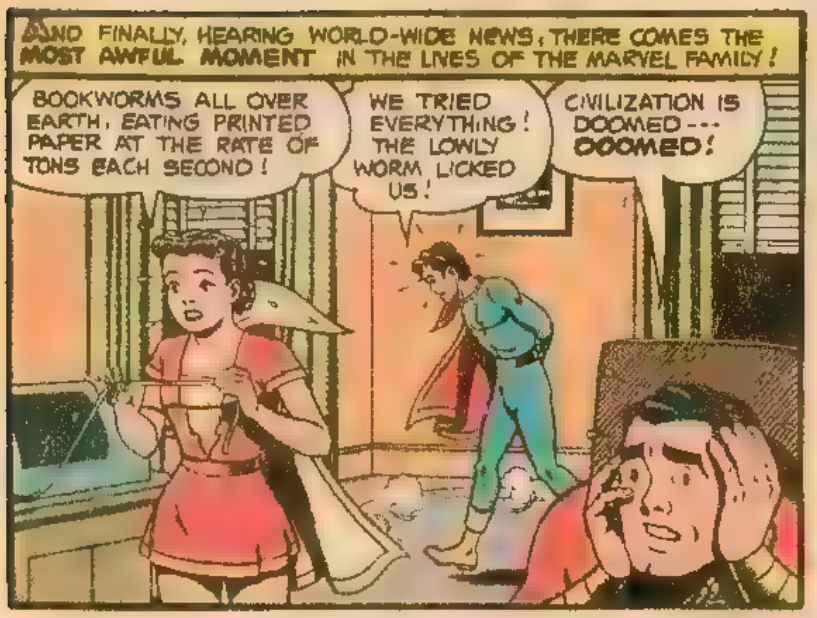

HO HAA! EACH METAL CONTAINER IS FILLED WITH A HORDE OF SPECIAL BOOKWORMS I BRED! THEY HUNGRILY EAT ALL PAPER! THEY WILL MULTIPLY FASTER THAN GERMS AND CONSUME ALL PAPER ON EARTH IN ONE WEEK! HA HO HAAAA!
CHOMP
CHOMP
GNAWW

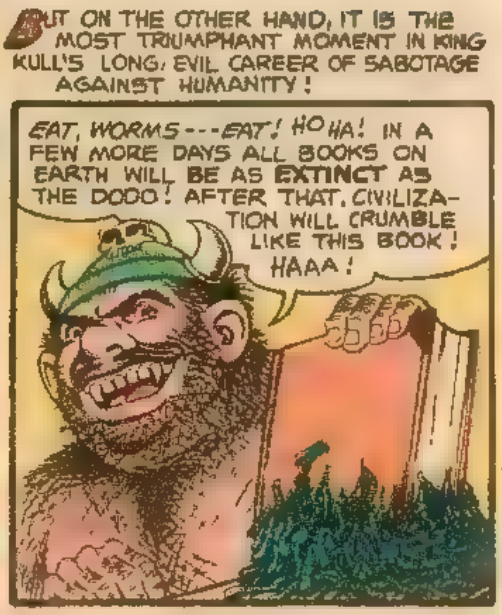


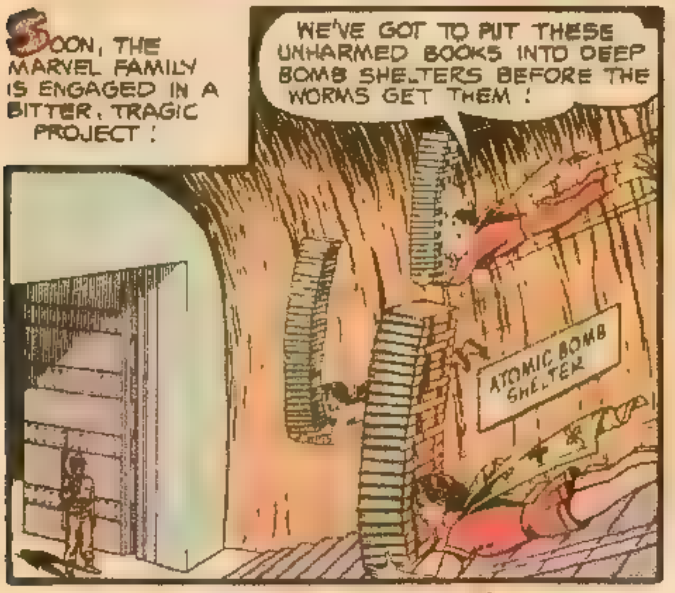

AND THEN THE AIR IS FILLED WITH AN OMINOUS GNAWING SOUND AS MILLIONS OF BOOKWORMS FINISH THEIR MEAL!
THIS WHOLE LIBRARY---DESTROYED BY WORMS! AND HOW CAN WE FIGHT THESE TINY HORRORS?
UGG! NO MATTER HOW MANY WE CRUSH, THERE ARE MILLIONS LEFT!
GNAWW
CHOMP

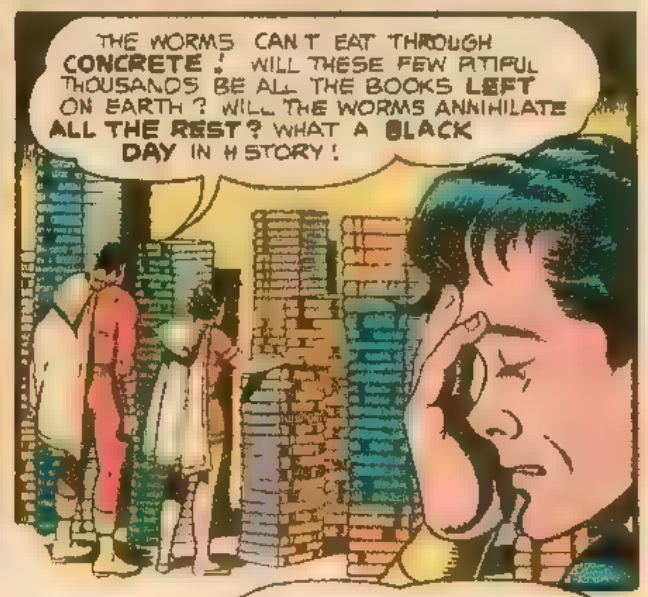

DESPERATELY, IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, THE MARVELS ATTEMPT TO HALT THE INVASION OF BOOKWORMS!
BURN DOWN ALL WORMS TRYING TO GET IN THIS LIBRARY!
NO USE, BOYS! ONE WORM SNEAKED IN---LAID EGGS --- AND ALL THE BOOKS ARE BEING CHEWED TO SHREDS!
PUBLIC LIBRA
15

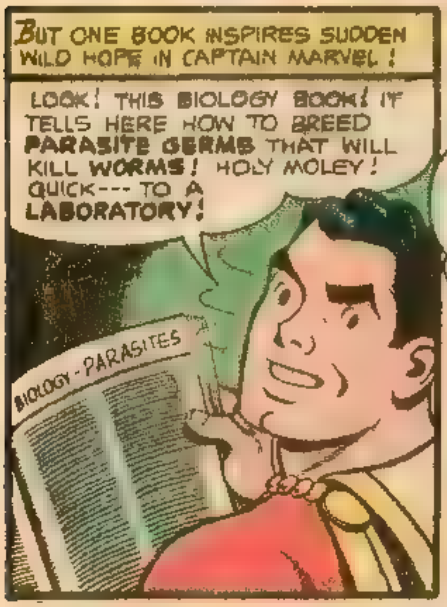
THE WORD WRECKER

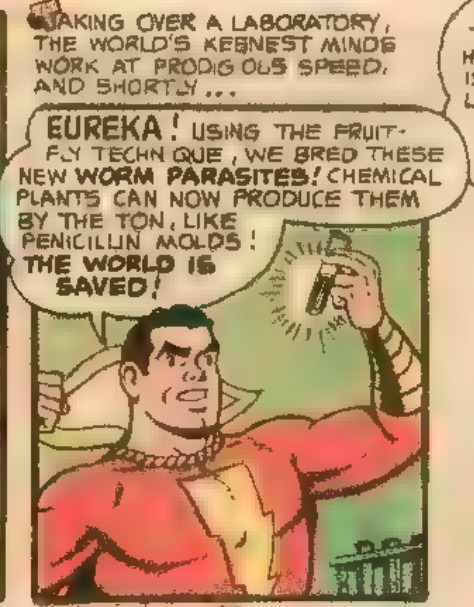

AND FINALLY, HEARING WORLD-WIDE NEWS, THERE COMES THE MOST AWFUL MOMENT IN THE LIVES OF THE MARVEL FAMILY!
BOOKWORMS ALL OVER EARTH, EATING PRINTED PAPER AT THE RATE OF TONS EACH SECOND!
WE TRIED EVERYTHING! THE LOWLY WORM LICKED US!
CIVILIZATION IS DOOMED--- DOOMED!

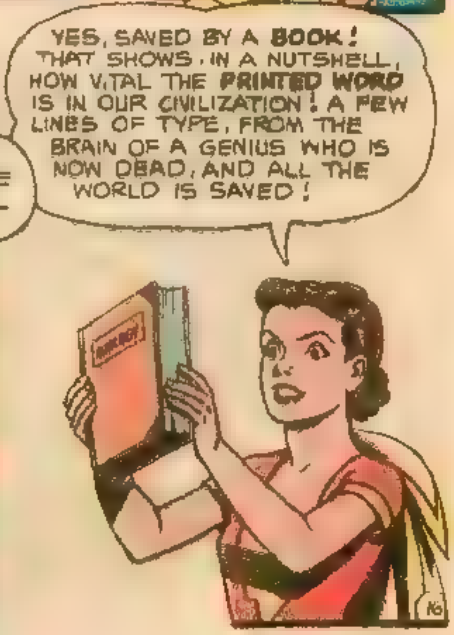

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS THE MOST TRIUMPHANT MOMENT IN KING KULL'S LONG, EVIL CAREER OF SABOTAGE AGAINST HUMANITY!
EAT, WORMS---EAT! HO HA! IN A FEW MORE DAYS ALL BOOKS ON EARTH WILL BE AS EXTINCT AS THE DODO! AFTER THAT, CIVILIZATION WILL CRUMBLE LIKE THIS BOOK! HAAA!


SOON, THE MARVEL FAMILY IS ENGAGED IN A BITTER, TRAGIC PROJECT!
WE'VE GOT TO PUT THESE UNHARMED BOOKS INTO DEEP BOMB SHELTERS BEFORE THE WORMS GET THEM!
ATOMIC BOMB SHELTER


THE WORMS CAN'T EAT THROUGH CONCRETE! WILL THESE FEW PITIFUL THOUSANDS BE ALL THE BOOKS LEFT ON EARTH? WILL THE WORMS ANNIHILATE ALL THE REST? WHAT A BLACK DAY IN HISTORY!

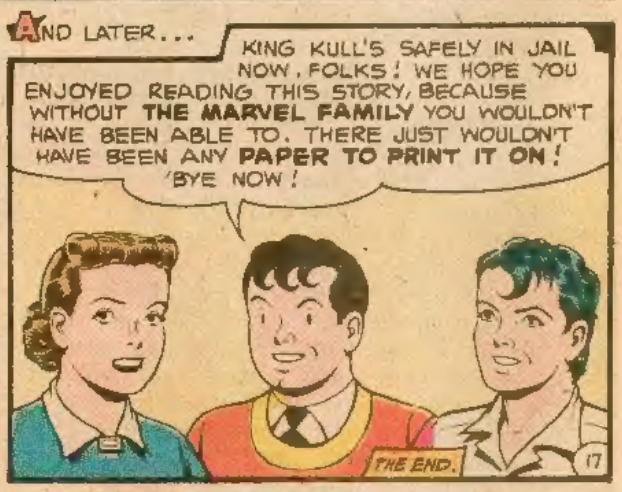

BUT ONE BOOK INSPIRES SUDDEN WILD HOPE IN CAPTAIN MARVEL!
LOOK! THIS BIOLOGY BOOK! IT TELLS HERE HOW TO BREED PARASITE GERMS THAT WILL KILL WORMS! HOLY MOLEY! QUICK--- TO A LABORATORY!
BIOLOGY - PARASITES


TAKING OVER A LABORATORY, THE WORLD'S KEENEST MINDS WORK AT PRODIGIOUS SPEED, AND SHORTLY...
EUREKA! USING THE FRUIT-FLY TECHNIQUE, WE BRED THESE NEW WORM PARASITES! CHEMICAL PLANTS CAN NOW PRODUCE THEM BY THE TON, LIKE PENICILLIN MOLDS! THE WORLD IS SAVED!


YES, SAVED BY A BOOK! THAT SHOWS, IN A NUTSHELL, HOW VITAL THE PRINTED WORD IS IN OUR CIVILIZATION! A FEW LINES OF TYPE, FROM THE BRAIN OF A GENIUS WHO IS NOW DEAD, AND ALL THE WORLD IS SAVED!
EUREKA!

THE PARASITES ARE SWIFTLY SPREAD ALL OVER THE WORLD AND LATER---
THE PARASITE MOLD KILLS WORMS AT HIGH SPEED! THE WORLD WILL BE CLEAR OF BOOKWORMS BY TOMORROW!
HEY, LOOK! HERE COMES KING KULL, ATTACKING US IN BLIND RAGE AT RUINING ALL HIS PLANS!

CRAM IT ALL DOWN HIS THROAT, JUNIOR!
WANT SALT AND PEPPER, KING KULL? YOU'RE GOING TO EAT THIS BOOK, PAGE BY PAGE!
GLURB
THE TRIUMPH OF GOOD OVER EVIL


AND LATER...
KING KULL'S SAFELY IN JAIL NOW, FOLKS! WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED READING THIS STORY, BECAUSE WITHOUT THE MARVEL FAMILY YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO. THERE JUST WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY PAPER TO PRINT IT ON!
'BYE NOW!
THE END.
17

ANSWERS TO THE SHAZAM TRIVIA QUIZ ON PAGE 61

1. *WHIZ* IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE *AMALGAMATED BROADCASTING SYSTEM.*

2. IF YOUR ANSWER WAS "NO"--YOU'RE *RIGHT!* THE NAME OF THE OLD HERMIT HAS NEVER BEEN REVEALED!

3. A-*BEAUTIA*
   B-*SIVANA JR.*
   C-*GEORGIA*
   D-*MAGNIFICUS*

4. A-*FAT BILLY* FROM *BROOKLYN*
   B-*TALL BILLY* FROM *TEXAS*
   C-*HILL BILLY* FROM *THE SOUTH*

Dear Sir:

I have proved that **Captain Marvel** is number one! On **Captain Marvel's** shirt he has a lightning bolt; when you straighten out the lines, you get a figure **one! Superman** has an **S** on his shirt. Turn the **S** around and you get a **two!** That proves that **Captain Marvel** is **number 1** and **Superman** is number 2!

Bill Scrimshire, Mt. Ida, Ar.

Dear Editor:

Your **Captain Marvel** is an anachronism. He reminds me of the **Superman** I used to read in the 1950's. I grew up with **Superman** and saw him go through many changes until he has reached the point where he is today. He has made many advancements and can take his place in the 1970's as a believable character.

It is no wonder many readers see **Captain Marvel** as a satire. His nature, his behavior, and his naiveté are what we tend to regard today as the classic stereotype of good versus evil, which we now recognize as an unreality. Therefore, how can **Captain Marvel** be accepted as **real?**

Superman, on the other hand, has gone through much character development in the 1960's. He has emerged with a believable personality. Thus we see beautiful characterization intertwined with imaginative plots to produce a superlative mythos dealing with **Superman**, unsurpassed **ever** by **anyone** in the history of comics. Remember, **Superman** was first, and he still leads today. So, until **Billy Batson** grows up, make mine **Superman!**

Kathryn Ann Dyball, Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

Sirs:

Superman has become a cult. It is written for super-experts on **Superman.** It must be accurate, realistic, perfect, and satisfy the **Superman** buffs.

Captain Marvel is for 7-year-old boys. **Cap** is human. He is not perfect. He gets angry. He likes a good fight. He gets satisfaction out of whipping the bad guy. And he doesn't go around—ugh!—kissing girls!!

I nearly fainted when I discovered **Superman** kissing **Lois Lane.** Don't you know how 7-year-olds feel about kissing girls?

Now, **Cap** is totally outrageous, preposterous, impossible, unrealistic, unbelievable, fantastic. Just like a 7-year-old boy's imagination. It is lighthearted, free of all the "relevant" issues of the day.

When I was a little girl, I used to go to the back of the drugstore and read all the old comics before they were thrown away. My favorites were the **Marvel Family** and **Wonder Woman.** I used to go home and pretend I was **Mary Marvel.**

I have to go now. My boy and girl just came in with gold towels tied around their shoulders, like capes flapping in the breeze. **Shazam!**

Good luck and thanks for the memories.

Mrs. Louis Hansen, Rawlins, Wyo.

Dear Editor:

Some years ago, on June 18, a small rocket plummeted to Earth, bearing a small child wrapped in red, blue and yellow blankets. He was adopted by a couple, the **Kents**, and he grew into a legend. This legend bore the name **Superman.** And even today he maintains his dominance. I am positive he will not lose this dominance to the likes of the **Big Red Cheese. Superman** is far more human, sensible, and far superior physically and mentally.

James Melanson, Sanford, Me.

Dear Editor:

Give **Captain Marvel** my vote in his popularity poll with **Superman.** He is noticeably free of the hang-ups **Kent-Superman** has. **Superman** feels he has to be a super-do-gooder for no apparent reason, while desperately trying to maintain his secret identity. **Billy Batson**, though, is a young boy assigned by **Shazam** to fight evil, plain and simple. I also think **Captain Marvel** is a better creation and much more imagination goes into the stories.

David Hulbert, St. Paul Park, Minn.

Dear Editor:

How dare you compare that—that **Big Red Cheese** with **Superman? Superman** has powers and abilities **Captain Marvel** will never have. The stories in **Shazam** are a change of pace, but that's all. You can't take a corny comic character and compare him to the **Man of Steel**—no way!! Especially not the new **Superman.** The changes in **Supes** have made him more believable.

Superman is unquestionably the best!

B.A. Newson, Louisville, Ky.

Dear Editor:

I am the President of the **Superman Fan Club** (Eastchester Division). We have a collection of 951 comics, all **Superman.** But somehow we got hold of **Shazam**, and wow!—everyone wanted to start another club. But as the Pres., I'm proud to announce that our club's new name is **Superman and Shazam Fan Club.** As you see, we love both of you.

Pres. Ellen Hanington, Eastchester, N.Y.

And on that note we end this **Battle Page.** Watch for another one in a future issue of **Superman.** And if you'd like to get in your views on the relative merits of **Supes** and **Cap**, send 'em along to SUPERMAN-SHAZAM BATTLE PAGE, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019.

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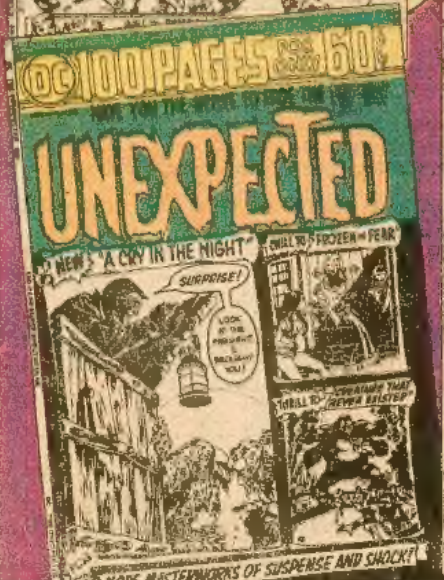

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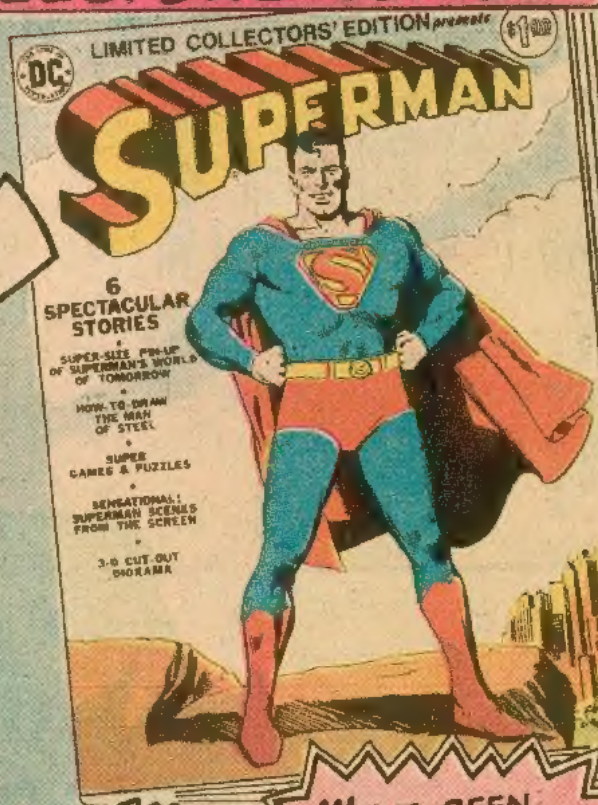
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